Hafa Adai!

CNMI Disability Sports Festival returns. PAGE 2

US, int'l forces band together in Rota rescue operation. PAGE 7

$1

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'Biggest touchback impact in Dec.'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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Correspondent

Despite the many unknowns the CNMI Department of Labor faces when it comes to the foreign worker situation in the CNMI, Labor Secretary Leila Staffler says they expect the highest number of departures this September, but the biggest impacts of the "touchback" rule will be felt in December.

See BIGGEST on Page 4

Jarae Hernandez: Breathing life to history

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Don't be alarmed if you come across a man in full Japanese Imperial Army regalia while you're hiking up north. It's just Jarae Hernandez, a 21-year-

See HISTORY on Page 4

MARK RABAGO
Jarae Hernandez is dressed in full Japanese Imperial Army regalia during one of his hikes.

Wellness mission may be cut short

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Operation CNMI Wellness kicked of Day 1 of its medical mission at the Commonwealth Health Center's MCATS area. One of the services provided is dental services including cleanings, extractions, fillings, and oral cancer exams

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Operation CNMI Wellness, which was supposed to last eight days, could be cut short due to unforeseen circumstances.

Lt. Col. Kristin Porter, public affairs officer for IRT Wellness Missions, said the mission was initially supposed to last from July 12 to July 19 for Saipan and from July 12 to July 17 for Rota and Tinian. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, the medical mission could be cut short by two days.

"Due to factors external to

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All NMI judges recuse selves from Torres petition vs Finance

Naraja

Govendo

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The two remaining CNMI Superior Court judges left to hear former governor Ralph DLG Torres' petition against Department of Finance have officially recused themselves from the case.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo officially issued orders yesterday, recusing

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

79

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The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is releasing a new children's show on its channel.
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ENVIRONMENT
South Korea has endorsed the safety of plans to release treated nuclear wastewater into the Pacific.
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LIFE & STYLE
The Netherlands has returned hundreds of cultural artifacts to Indonesia on Monday,
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CNMI Disability Sports Festival returns

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo shows the participants in a previous CNMI Disability Sports Festival.

The Disabilities Network Partners announced yesterday the return of the 2023 CNMI Disability Sports Festival this year.

With the last festival held prior to the pandemic, the Disability Network Partners has worked with both the government and private sectors and planned for the grand return of this significant event that offers opportunities for our brothers and sisters to play sports and get involved in other related activities. As done in the past, the 2023 CNMI Disability Sports Festival will be held islandwide with the five activities—bocce/boccia, cornhole, sitting volleyball, washer toss, and disc golf—to take place on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The 2023 CNMI Disability Sports Festival, or CNMI-DSF, is led by co-chairs Susan Satur and Nick Gross and will kick off on Friday, July 14,, at Marianas High School for Saipan residents. For further information, call the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI at (670) 322-4303/04. On Friday, July 21, the event will move to the Tinian Gymnasium, for the island's residents and interested participants may register with Ms. Monika at (670) 285-4115 or at NMPASI with Jennielyn Cruz (670) 287-9937, by Tuesday, July 18. The Rota leg of the festival will be held on Friday, July 28, at the Sinapalo Man'amko Center. Registration is accepted at the CLI Office on Rota with Robert Mendiola (670-783-2940) and Pauline Manglona (670-287-9943) as contact persons.

"On behalf of the DSF organizing committee, we are happy to report the resumption of the Disability Sports Festival. This multi-agency and private business supported event is an opportunity to celebrate and highlight leisure activities and sports that are inclusive and can easily be modified or have accommodations made to ensure opportunities for all to participate. These activities have been on pause since 2020 due to the pandemic, so we are really excited to bring this fantastic event back for our community. Many thanks to all our partners and sponsors for their support.," Gross said.

The CNMI-DSF Committee would like to thank the following Sponsors: Office of the Governor- Grants Management Office, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, JG Sablan Ice & Water, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero, Sen. Dennis Mendiola, Office of Speaker Edmund Villagomez, vice speaker Joel C. Camacho, floor leader Edwin K. Propst, Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Rep. Manny T. Castro, Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Rep. Marissa Flores, Rep. Thomas John Manglona, Rep. Malcolm C. Omar, Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai, Rep. Diego Vincent Camacho, Department of Corrections Outreach Program, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Marianas High School, Office of Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan and team, Diaz family, Tinian Gymnasium, Office of Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog and team, and Rota Aging Center. ***(PR)***

NMHC to release Island Time on YouTube channel

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is releasing a new children's show, *Island Time*, on its YouTube channel—@670humanities—on July 20, 2023.

Island Time, "Inventions" is an episode of a children's show that teaches the Chamorro language and celebrates the Chamorro culture with Chamorro actors, local music, animations, and wacky puppets. Island Time is a Northern Marianas Humanities Council production intended for audiences of all ages and ethnicities, though its target audience is Chamorro youth living in the Marianas and across the diaspora.

The series centers around Fu'una, a young Chamorro woman living on the island of Saipan who wants to learn more about her culture. In the "Inventions" episode, Fu'una's tough-love Chamorro grandmother, Nåna, is about to leave for a motorcycle road trip across the United States and shows Fu'una how to watch over her house, including taking care of her pet *ayuyu* (coconut crab) and *chiba* (goat). When Nåna leaves, her pets transform from live-action animals to Chamorro-speaking puppets who build robots, hold public office, sing songs, and fully expect Fu'una to keep up. Suddenly immersed in a new home full of Chamorro culture, language, and history, Fu'una embarks on a journey to reconnect with her own indigenous identity.

Island Time tackles growing up in our internet age but through the lens of Chamorro culture and identity. By watching Fu'una's adventures, mistakes, and triumphs, we intend to provide young viewers with an example of how to navigate their own personal and cultural identities in a global and digital world. For example, "Inventions" shows how modern-day creativity can still be an authentic representation of a 4,000-year-old culture, and new inventions are a way of demonstrating that the old culture is still alive. ***(NMHC)***

USCIS opens application period for integration grant program

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has opened the application period for the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, which provides funding for citizenship preparation programs in communities across the country. As a result of increased congressional appropriations, USCIS will be able to provide up to $25 million in grants, an increase from $20 million in congressional funding last year.

Through this program, USCIS helps to provide integration services to immigrants on their journeys to becoming American citizens. These competitive grant opportunities are open to organizations that prepare immigrants for naturalization and promote civic integration through increased knowledge of English, U.S. history, and civics.

In addition to the traditional programs that fund citizenship and English acquisition classes, the 2023 grants also include opportunities for creative and innovative approaches to preparing lawful permanent residents for naturalization. By adding additional funding opportunities under the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program, USCIS seeks to expand availability of high-quality citizenship and integration services throughout the country.

USCIS is now accepting applications for four funding opportunities under the fiscal year 2023 program.

The four funding opportunities include:

■ **Citizenship Instruction and Naturalization Application Services:** This grant opportunity will fund public or nonprofit organizations that offer both citizenship instruction and naturalization application services to LPRs. USCIS expects to award 55 organizations up to $300,000 each for two years through this opportunity. Applications are due by July 28, 2023.

■ **Community and Regional Integration Network Grant**: This grant opportunity will provide extended integration services with a focus on individualized programming to certain immigrants, including those who entered the United States under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, were granted asylum, or were admitted or entered the United States as a Cuban or Haitian entrant, to attain the skills and knowledge required for successful citizenship. The program, formerly called the Refugee and Asylee Integration Services Grant, has expanded eligibility to include organizations that serve the following: individuals who were admitted or entered the United States as Cuban or Haitian entrants; individuals admitted on a Special Immigrant Visa; victims of human trafficking and criminal activity; and abused spouses, children, and parents under the Violence Against Women Act. USCIS expects to award up to three public or nonprofit organizations with experience serving vulnerable populations up to $300,000 each for a period of two years through this opportunity. Applications are due by July 28, 2023.

■ **Regional Hub Program**: This grant opportunity is designed to build community and organizational capacity to identify, support, and prepare LPRs for citizenship. To achieve this goal, recipients will help create or expand citizenship networks and provide technical assistance to individual network members that offer citizenship instruction and naturalization application services. Through a hub and spoke funding model, the Regional Hub grant will more holistically support LPRs on the pathway to citizenship and encourage the integration of LPRs into their receiving communities. USCIS anticipates awarding up to four grants of up to $1 million each for a period of two years through this opportunity. Applications are due by July 28, 2023.

■ **Innovations in Citizenship Preparation Program**: Through this grant opportunity, USCIS will fund public, nonprofit, or for-profit organizations that foster creative approaches to preparing LPRs for naturalization and encouraging the civic, linguistic, and cultural integration of immigrants into their communities. While other USCIS funding opportunities support specific citizenship preparation services, the Innovations program invests in initiatives that develop, test, and share creative solutions for overcoming barriers to naturalization and expanding access to citizenship education and preparation services. USCIS expects to award up to 14 organizations up to $250,000 each for a period of two years through this opportunity. Applications are due by July 28, 2023.

Since 2009, the USCIS Citizenship and Integration Grant Program has awarded $132 million through 579 grants to immigrant-serving organizations. These grant recipients have provided citizenship preparation services to more than 300,000 immigrants in 39 states and the District of Columbia. In Fiscal Year 2023, USCIS received support from Congress through appropriations to make these funding opportunities available to communities and expects to announce award recipients in September 2023.

To apply for these funding opportunities, visit www.grants.gov. USCIS encourages applicants to visit www.grants.gov before the application deadline to obtain registration information needed to complete the application process.

For additional information on the Citizenship and Integration Grant Program for fiscal year 2023, visit uscis.gov/grants or email the USCIS Office of Citizenship at citizenshipgrantprogram@uscis.dhs.gov. ***(USCIS)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SELVINO ATALIG TAISACAN, Decedent.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATROCINA E. TAISACAN

Civil Action No. 00-0180D
Civil Action No. 00-0179D
(Consolidated Probate Cases)

ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter was on for a hearing on Administrator's Petition for Final Distribution on June 01, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMI Superior Court Room 220. Administrator Richard E. Taisacan ("Administrator") did not appear. Counsel Joey P. San Nicolas, Esq. was present.

Counsel San Nicolas advised the Court that Administrator was off-island and requested that the hearing be continued to a date in July.

Based on Counsel's request and for GOOD CAUSE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the hearing on Administrator's Petition for Final Distribution is continued to July 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 11th day of July, 2023.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

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Attorney for Petitioner Richard E. Taisacan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ABRAHAM EVANGELISTA TAISACAN, Decedent.

Civil Action No.: 23-0070
ORDER RESETTING HEARING

This matter came before the Court on June 29, 2023 at 10:00 am on Petitioner's Petition for Letters of Administration. Counsel Joey P. San Nicolas appeared on behalf of Petitioner Richard E. Taisacan, who was not present. Attorney Oliver Manglona (standing in for Attorney Robert T. Torres) appeared on behalf of claimant Bank of Guam.

Counsel San Nicolas informed the Court that Petitioner was still off-island and would not return until early July. Counsel requested the Court to set the Hearing on Petitioner's Petition for Letters of Administration for July 20, 2023. Attorney Manglona did on object.

GOOD CAUSE APPEARING, it is hereby Ordered that the Hearing on Petitioner's Petition for Letters of Administration is hereby continued to July 20, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 29th day of June, 2023.

/s/ Hon. JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

WILL BE CLOSED FOR HALF DAY FOR A TEAM BUILDING & ISLAND BEAUTIFICATION EVENT

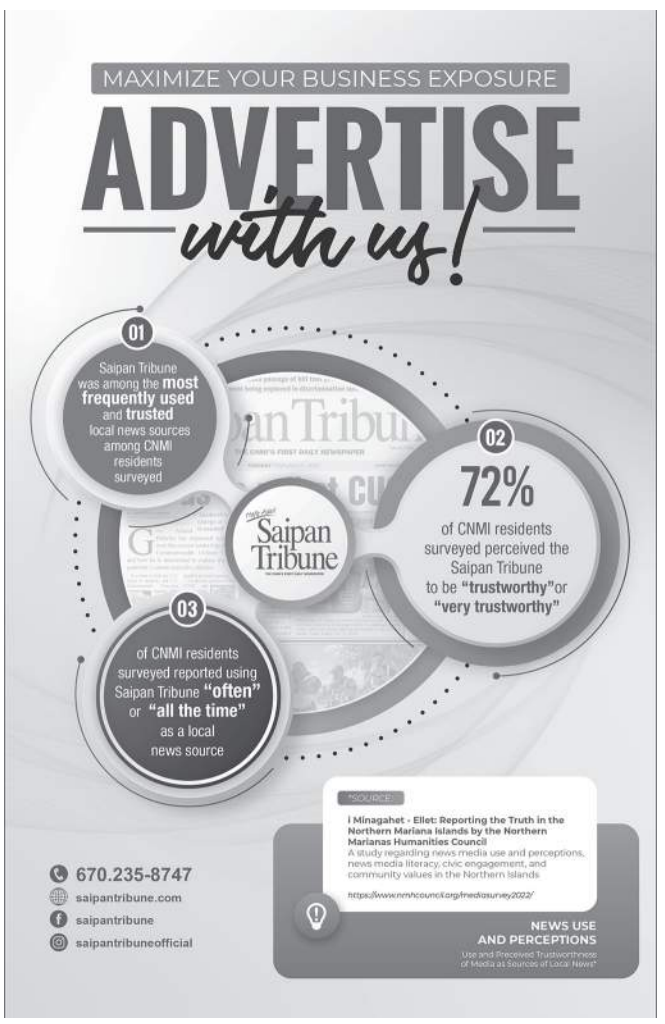
Friday, July 14, 2023
12:30PM to 4:30PM

THE DIVISION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (DCRM) OF THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY (BECQ-DCRM) WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT OUR OFFICE WILL BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED ON FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2023 FOR HALF DAY ONLY. BECQ-DCRM WILL RESUME ITS OFFICE HOURS ON MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR PERMIT REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO MR. NEIL TAISACAN AT ntaisacan@dcrm.gov.mp OR MS. PRIMROSE TAITANO AT ptaitano@dcrm.gov.mp.

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
DCRM Director

/s/ ELI D. CABRERA
BECQ ADMINISTRATOR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02
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03
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Saipan Tribune
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A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands
https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/
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NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Max Investments, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of the Palacios Building measuring 30'.6" (L) x 31' (W) x 10'.6" (H) for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **July 27, 2023**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria**
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Sensi Stay

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Sensi Stay is proposing to utilize the third-floor level of Pacific Sunrise Building measuring 80' (W) x 36'(L) x 10' (H) for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 D 33 and 001 D 34 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: **July 27, 2023**
Time: **2:00 pm**
Place: **Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria**
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

WELLNESS

From page 1

this mission, we have been informed that we may now have to limit our service dates on all islands. We are hopeful that we can maintain our planned service dates, but if not, services will end on Saipan on July 17 at 12pm, and on July 15 for Tinian and Rota at 6pm. This possible change in service dates is not due to any action or planning by the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs' amazing team. This is both devastating and disappointing to them and our military service members on ground," she said.

The IRT Operation CNMI Wellness kicked off Day 1 of its medical mission in the CNMI at the Commonwealth Health Center's MCATs area.

Because of the possible limitation of service dates, service hours for all islands will be extended to 8am to 6pm, Porter said.

When asked what caused the possible limitation of service dates, Porter said there were multiple factors.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs special assistant Danny Aquino, Lt. Col. Kristin Porter, Col. Hugh West, and Capt. Gary Knight pose for a photo during the first day of U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Operation CNMI Wellness held at the Commonwealth Health Center MCATS area.

"The possible of limitation of service dates is due to factors including delays in commercial airlines, getting our medical providers on island, and timeline requirements by the Air Force of medical equipment dry out, packaging, transport, and reset for following use at the next Innovative Readiness mission. Our team and the CBMA team are hopeful we can continue our mission as long as possible but we want the community to be advised of this possible change," she said.

Fortunately, the change remains tentative. To be safe, those interested in availing of free medical services offered during the medical mission are encouraged to do so sooner rather than later.

"With that, we advise community members to come in within the next few days if possible. This also means that one must prepare for longer wait times for services. But rest assured that our hearts are focused on the people of the CNMI regardless of the days we are here," she said. "

"The change is tentative at the moment but we are hopeful that there will be no change because we are here to provide services to the people of the CNMI and we have worked so hard with CBMA to make this mission a reality. We've poured our hearts and souls into this mission and we want to be able to carry out this mission as long as possible," Porter added.

In an interview with CBMA special assistant Danny Aquino, he said CBMA is still grateful for the IRT mission despite the unfortunate possibility.

"We're just grateful to the men and women who are part of this IRT mission for their support and coming out to the islands to help the people at a time when it is greatly needed since we are all suffering economically," he said.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Col. Hugh West, mission commander for IRT CNMI, he said that about 130 service members from the Air Force, the International Guard, the Army Reserves, and the U.S. Navy are on the ground to provide services to the people of the CNMI.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HISTORY

From page 1

old advertising executive from Virginia who is vacationing here.

Hernandez, who studied at Saipan International School for elementary and Saipan Community School for middle school, said he dresses up in full World War II Imperial Army of Japan uniform because it's his passion and his way of educating the public about the importance of history.

"History is my hobby. I'm currently here on vacation, and my reenactment group (Hattori Han) re-enacts the Imperial Japanese navy and army, all the way from the Russo-Japanese War to World War II," he said.

His group has been invited to many reenactment events in the South as far as Alabama and, to his knowledge, the Hattori Han make up only a handful of Japanese Imperial military reenactment groups in the U.S.

Hernandez is especially fascinated with the Pacific War and how the Americans fought the Japanese during the Battle of Saipan.

"For Saipan specifically, I was born and raised here and have been interested in the history of Saipan for so long and I wanted to go on these hikes in full gear to truly feel what the defenders of the island had to go through, and in honor of what they did to defend Saipan," he said.

Hernandez developed his passion for history at a young age and was even encouraged by one of the teachers at SCS, Tami Winkfield, to pursue his passion.

"Growing up on Saipan and crawling all over the tanks and cannons as a kid, I just naturally got more curious and started researching more and more. Now it has grown into archival research, collecting, and reenacting," he said.

And the gear he wears—from the khaki shirt and pants, to the tabi shoes, and even his utility belt, rifle, and accompanying bayonet—are as close to authentic as possible.

He even confided that his helmet is actually the real deal (and even showed the marks to prove it), but his rifle is an airsoft version. "The rifle is actually a reproduction. I do have a real rifle taken from Saipan, but transporting a live firearm to Saipan can be difficult, so I purchased this airsoft one as a stand-in for now. For my uniform and gear we get from vendors all across Asia, and we try to wear as much original stuff as possible. Our puttees (leggings) are original from the '40s, and our bayonets are original. Those are the minimum requirements as there are no good reproductions available. So it's definitely an investment."

Aside from the thousands of dollars he has put into the hobby, Hernandez said another challenge in being part of a reenactment group is actually finding the right size of clothing and gear as he's 5'10" and the average Japanese soldier during World War II was between 5'4" and 5'5" so even reproduction uniforms and gear are not exactly tailor-made for his larger physique.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

JUDGES

From page 1

themselves from hearing Torres' pending petition against Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General regarding special prosecutor James Kingman's contract.

Without going into detail, Naraja and Govendo both stated in their orders that they must recuse themselves from the case due to a conflict of interest.

In late June Superior Court Associate Judges Joseph N. Camacho, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and Wesley Bogdan also recused themselves from hearing Torres' suit.

With this, Torres' petition is left without a local judge to hear it. This means that, like Torres' ongoing criminal case, the CNMI Supreme Court will have to appoint a non-CNMI judge to hear the matter.

According to Saipan Tribune archives, Torres, through his defense team, filed a petition for a judicial review of the decision the Department of Finance made in the Kingman case. The DOF and the Office of the Attorney General were named respondents in this matter.

The petition came after Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita declined to rule or address the merits of Torres' request that Kingman's contract with the OAG be declared invalid.

In addition, the agency ruling dismissed Torres' request finding that the department lacks the authority to issue a declaratory ruling because Kingman's contract had already been signed.

As relief, Torres is asking the Superior Court to vacate the DOF's final agency decision on the grounds that the ruling was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law. The defense also wants the court to rule that the special prosecutor's contract fails to comply with procurement regulations and is void.

Alternatively, Torres asks that the court set aside the DOF's final agency ruling and remand the matter back to the agency for a decision on the merits of his request for declaratory relief by an independent and unbiased hearing officer.

Torres is challenging Kingman's previous contract with the OAG as a special prosecutor in his ongoing criminal case. Torres argues that the contract did not comply with the CNMI's rules of procurement.

The defense team for Torres is now also strongly opposing Kingman's recent appointment as a staff attorney for the OAG as an assistant attorney general.

BIGGEST

From page 1

Speaking at the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting last Tuesday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan, Staffler said that, based on the survey the department did on CNMI businesses that would be affected by the "touchback" rule, September will see the highest departures in the business sectors of health and human services, construction and skilled labor, and hospitality, and a quarter of businesses shared that they will be moderately impacted but the vast majority will experience major effects.

"December is when you will see the biggest jump of the touchback effects." Staffler said.

Currently, any foreign employee in the CNMI—called a CW-1 visa holder—whose work visa has already been renewed twice must leave the CNMI while their work visa is being renewed for a third time and will only be allowed to return once their third CW-1 visa is approved. This requirement, which will take effect this Sept. 30, 2023, is called the "touchback" rule.

What complicates matters for the CNMI Department of Labor is that the agency that handles the CW-1 visas for the CNMI's foreign workers, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, does not talk to CNMI DOL.

"I've been trying. They will not talk to me. So I don't know a lot of the questions that you guys want to know," she said. "It's very hard for me to do my job if I don't know these numbers."

Even the U.S. Department of Labor doesn't have the numbers, she said. "The Department of Labor has nothing to do with the approval of the CW process. Nothing. They're two separate entities and they don't talk to each other."

What Staffler said she can report is that between the start of the year and June, "we had a total of 2,014 [job vacancy announcements] and with those JVA there are 7,000 openings," she said.

In a chart Staffler shared showing the number of CWA-1 JVAs and job openings, it showed that, from January to June 29, 2023, there were 5,892 new job openings, and 1,462 renewal job openings, for a total of 7,354.

And because CNMI DOL cannot communicate with USCIS, Staffler said her department doesn't know a lot about the important numbers and statistics, and many times can't answer public questions such as how many CW workers are in the CNMI, when are their expiration dates, how many are required to touch back due to U.S. Public Law 115-218, which industries will have the most touchback departures, how this affects the CNMI economy, and whether or not U.S. Congress will make exceptions or change the law.

Staffler warned, though, that the current environment in the U.S. Congress "is not very friendly to immigration and these kinds of laws are what are in place and I don't see them changing anytime soon."

Although most of the foreign workers who will be leaving want to come back, she warned "Don't expect a lot of change. The way that the atmosphere is in the U.S. Congress is not going to change. If you haven't made an effort to find new workers now, you will be in a bad place later. If you don't do something, you have to find a way. Get U.S. workers on your teams, take advantage of programs. Or start recruiting because they're not going to change the law in this short amount of time."

In trying to get an idea around the CW-1 numbers, Staffler said that CNMI DOL conducted a survey, but sadly only received 18 responses.

Staffler was joined at the meeting by members of the CNMI Department of Labor as the first guest speakers for the Rotary year 2023-2024.

This was also the first the Rotary Club of Saipan held its weekly meeting at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan. They used to meet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Application period for coral reef fellowship extended

The application deadline for the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship has been extended to July 31, 2023. Prospective must apply directly through the Nova Southeastern University online portal at https://hcas.nova.edu/fellows/apply.html.

Fellows are employed directly through NSU but will be located onsite at each host agency. The fellowship is a partnership funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The host agency for the 2024-2026 National Coral Reef Management Fellowship in the CNMI is the Division of Coastal Resources Management. The position will be based on the island of Saipan. The focus of this Coral Fellow's work will be on strengthening the CNMI Coral Reef Initiative's communications and outreach program as well as its Long-Term Marine Monitoring Program through with the following goals:

■ Updating the CRI strategic communications plan to lay the framework of outreach-related programs;

■ Develop key messaging for select CRI outreach programs; and

■ Raise community awareness and stewardship of the CNMI CRI and its related programs.

Background and application

The National Coral Reef Management Fellowship is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Nova Southeastern University, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee.

There are seven U.S. states and territories participating in this program: American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Coral Reef Management Fellows are placed in state and territorial natural resource management agencies (the host agencies) in each of these jurisdictions every other year where they work on specific projects related to coral reef conservation. Although fellows are employed through NSU, they are essentially working for the host agencies and should consider their on-site fellowship supervisors to be their direct managers.

The fellowship program's mission is two-fold:

1. Provide coral reef management support in each participating jurisdiction by placing highly qualified individuals whose education and work experience meet each location's specific coral reef management's needs.

2. Provide individual fellows with professional opportunities and training in coastal and coral reef resource management.

■ Prospective applicants should note that this is a management and policy focused fellowship, and that SCUBA diving will not be permitted.

■ Applications will be reviewed in late summer/early fall and those selected for interviews will be contacted in October/November 2023.

■ Positions will start in each jurisdiction in January 2024.

For more information on applications and to apply, visit https://hcas.nova.edu/fellows/apply.html. ***(PR)***

Helping make birthdays happen for children in need

When she's not teaching classes in the Women and Gender Studies Program at the University of Guam, Deane Jessee-Jones spends part of her time with her growing circle of "cake crew" members through her non-profit Bake Their Day.

With a shared love for baking, Bake Their Day members help children—whose parents are going through difficulties or are absent from the kids' lives—celebrate their birthdays with special cakes.

While on a morning walk, Jessee-Jones and her friend Kim Fegurgur talked about how they'd like to help make a difference in the community during their free time. They had heard about children who were missing out on the full experience of celebrating their birthday, and the idea for Bake Their Day was formed.

"Her family used to run a bakery when she was growing up, and I knew she likes to bake, and I like to bake, so that's kind of where it started," Jessee-Jones said of her friend.

At first, Bake Their Day had an informal network of social workers to help children in need of a birthday cake experience.

Jessee-Jones

"We would hear that a child would get a cupcake sometimes, and other times, some children don't get anything ... that's really what pushed us to put together the nonprofit," Jessee-Jones said.

Bake Their Day now works with social workers from the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Department of Youth Affairs, Alee Shelter, Sanctuary, and the Kate Thomas Foundation to connect with the children.

Some of the kids express through their social worker the flavor and look of the cake they hope to receive. One boy who loves Spiderman received a cake that reflects that, another child received a soccer-themed cake, and another received a cake with an underwater theme, just to name a few.

With the cake crew now at 25 members, Bake Their Day has provided 175 cakes for children's birthday celebrations in the time it has existed since January 2022.

"We're very grateful for all the social workers who reached out to us and let us know about (the children's) situations," she said.

As an adjunct instructor at UOG, Jessee-Jones said she encourages her students to become involved in community service.

And she practices what she preaches.

"I've always felt if I'm telling the students they need to do these things, I need to be doing it, too," she added.

About Bake Their Day

Bake Their Day aspires to create birthday cakes for children and young adults living in shelters, foster and group homes, who would otherwise not receive one. Bake Their Day is a 501 3c-registered nonprofit, allowing donors a tax deduction for charitable giving.

How to help

■ Donate online at: https://www.baketheirday.org/donation

■ Select Bake Their Day as your preferred charity on Walmart, https://www.walmart.com/nonprofits/48c4ba99-b37d-4e1f-b95a-3b102f9cd-bf0/profile

■ Sponsor a cake or volunteer to bake a cake, by reaching out through email: Info@baketheirday.org ***(UOG)***

BAKE THEIR DAY

From left: Marian Almario, treasurer; Deane Jessee-Jones, president and co-founder of Bake Their Day; Sonya Rios, secretary; Kim Fergurgur, vice president; and Rindraty Limtiaco.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Tamaraw, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tamaraw, LLC is proposing to utilize an area within a preexisting building measuring 24' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H) for its "Vehicle Repair – General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 551 in the village of Afetnas. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office), Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Tamaraw, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Tamaraw, LLC is proposing to utilize a preexisting One-Story building measuring 24' (L) x 100' (W) x 10' (H) for its "Institutional Residential" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 551 in the village of Afetnas. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office), Saipan.

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/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Elevated Minds, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Elevated Minds, LLC is proposing to renovate and enclose an area measuring 15'.6" (W) x 23' (L) x 9' (H) within its warehouse unit for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 L 04 in the village of Agingan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office), Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Saipan Marijuana Farms, Inc.

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Marijuana Farms, Inc. is proposing to occupy an area measuring 37' (W) x 57'.9"(L) x 10'.8" (H) on the second floor of the Olibas Building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 007 D 08 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office), Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Yu Bo Corporation dba Canna Pacific

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yu Bo Corporation dba Canna Pacific is proposing to occupy an area measuring 12'.5" (W) x 10'.11" (L) x 9' (H) on the ground floor of a preexisting Three-Story commercial building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 F 09 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Laulau (former IT&E Office), Saipan.

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/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

US, int'l forces band together in Rota rescue operation

SANTA RITA, Guam— French, Canadian, and U.S. Forces, in tandem with local responders, were able to save 11 people from a distressed vessel off the coast of Rota last July 10.

The successful search and rescue operation managed to save the operator and passengers from the fishing vessel and all 11 are now safe on Rota.

According to a U.S. Coast Guard news release, watchstanders at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/ Sector Guam's Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam received a distress call on VHF channel 16 at 5:05pm on July 10 from the operator of the 21-foot vessel *Full 20 Horizon*, saying the vessel was disabled and adrift in 6-foot seas and 12 mile-per-hour winds with 11 people aboard, approximately 30 nautical miles northwest of Rota. Due to the lack of GPS onboard and the inability to use a cell phone to acquire a GPS position, the situation became even more critical.

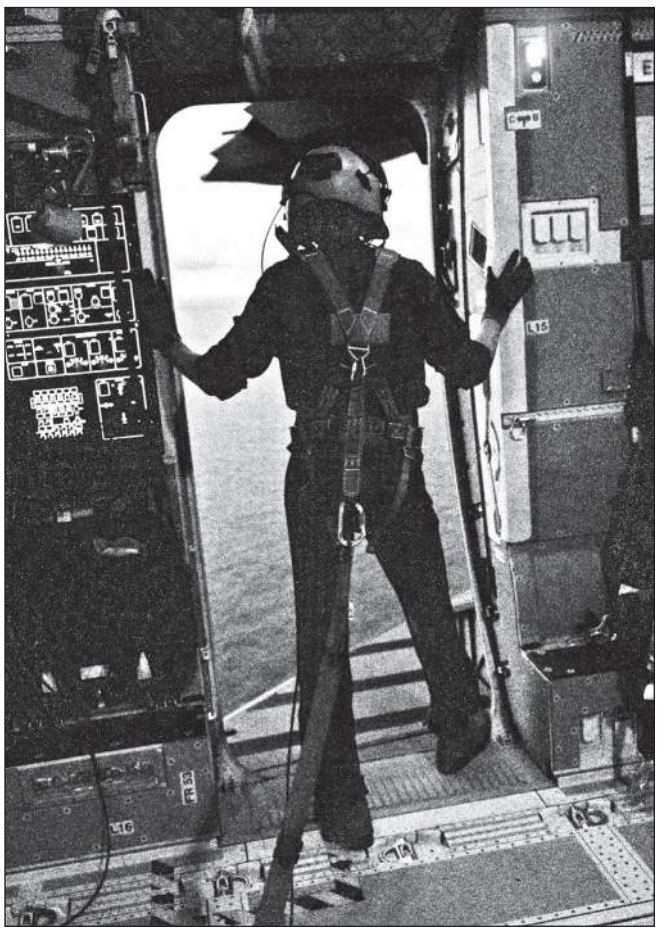
In response, the watchstanders promptly issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast, alerting mariners in the area to be aware of the distressed vessel. They also established a 15-minute communications schedule with the vessel operator and instructed the passengers to wear their flotation devices for safety.

Watchstanders initiated coordinated efforts with the CNMI Department of Public Safety on Rota, who launched their 27-foot vessel to aid in the rescue operation. Additionally, partnerships with the U.S. Air Force 36th Wing and U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 at Andersen Air Force Base proved invaluable in securing the assistance of multiple aircraft crews for the response.

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, emphasized the importance of aircraft in search and rescue operations at sea, stating, "Aircraft crews play a crucial role in our efforts to save lives in challenging maritime situations. Using aerial assets, combined with our local partnerships, ensures a swift and effective response to distress calls, ultimately increasing the chances of a successful rescue."

A French Air and Space Force A400 Atlas military transport aircraft and crew were the first aircrew to respond, launching from Andersen Air Force Base and locating the vessel at about 8pm after running a search pattern. They worked to vector in the Department of Public Safety crew.

Unfortunately, the initial rescue attempt by the DPS crew was hindered by severe sea conditions as winds increased to 18 mph and seas built to 8 feet, forcing them to abort the mission. However, the French Air and Space Force A400 crew remained on the scene and maintained visual contact with the disabled vessel. Recognizing the severity of the situation, the crew of USCGC *Myrtle Hazard* (WPC 1139), on a port call on Saipan, was recalled, and watchstanders reengaged with HSC-25 to address the evolving circumstances.



STAFF SGT. TAYLOR CRUL

A French Air and Space Force A400M Loadmaster assigned to the 1/61 "Touraine" Transportation Squadron scans the ocean with NVG looking for a lost ship during a search and rescue operation in the Pacific Ocean, July 10, 2023.

Watchstanders also requested additional overhead support from the U.S. Air Force 36th Wing, who offered a Royal Canadian Air Force HC-130 airplane and crew to replace the French crew due to fuel constraints. At 11:15pm, the Canadian crew then on scene informed watchstanders that the lights on the distressed vessel went out, but they maintained visual contact with its position.

The U.S. Navy MH-60 Nighthawk helicopter and crew launched to aid the rescue efforts further. After a swift transit, the Nighthawk crew arrived at approximately 1am and immediately commenced hoisting the operator and passengers. The aircrew transported those rescued to the Rota airport, where local emergency responders and law enforcement met them. The passengers did not report any injuries, and the aircrew did not observe any.

The Nighthawk and Canadian aircrews returned to Andersen Air Force Base at 2:40am, successfully concluding their part in the rescue operation. Meanwhile, the *Myrtle Hazard* crew continued their search for the vessel relocating it around 10am. Weather conditions improved, and they will take the vessel in tow to deliver it to Rota.

Nine of the 11 people rescued are reportedly citizens the People's Republic of China. Local law enforcement on Rota is currently addressing these matters. The U.S. Coast Guard remains committed to working closely with local authorities to ensure the safety of those at sea and the security of our maritime borders.

Notably, the French and Canadian aircraft crews participating in Exercise Mobility Guardian 2023 are contributing their expertise to this successful rescue operation. Exercise Mobility Guardian, Air Mobility Command's largest full-spectrum readiness exercise, involves seven participating countries and supports over 15,000 U.S. forces, allied, and partner participants in the Indo-Pacific region. ***(USCG)***

Department of Veterans Affairs
PACT Act Claims Clinic

Hosted by

Honolulu Veterans Affairs Regional Office

July 20, 2023
12pm to 5pm

VA Benefits Counselors will be available to answer non-medical benefits questions and assist with the claim process. Information regarding the PACT Act that expands VA benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances will also be available.

WHERE: *Hyatt Regency Saipan*
Giovanni's Restaurant
873 Micro Beach Road Garapan
Saipan 96950

WHEN: *July 20, 2023 – 12pm to 5pm*

No registration is required

Walk-In Only. Customers Seen on a First Come - First Served Basis

For additional information related to the PACT Act visit VA.gov/PACT

For questions regarding the PACT Claims Clinic please contact
Willie Peterson, (670) 664-2650 or Aiko Shibuya at (808) 433-0501

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-GOV-42300072

SUBMISSION DATE: 9:00 AM ChST, MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023

PHASE II – KALABERA CAVE REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the ***Phase II Kalabera Cave Repairs & Improvements***, Marpi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project is funded by the 702 Capital Improvement Project funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **Friday, July 7, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at the project site in Marpi, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, July 21, 2023.**

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:30 PM ChST, Thursday, July 28, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 AM ChST, Monday August 7, 2023.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2023

Opening date: July 03, 2023 **Closing date: July 21, 2023**

Location:	**SAIPAN**		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Airport Manager		UNGRADED
	(1) ARFF Mechanic II		PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr)
	(1) Grants Specialist		PL 15/1 to 15/12 ($14.38/hr to $24.60/hr)
	(1) Master Electrician		PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr)
	(1) Procurement Clerk		PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)
Location:	**TINIAN**		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee		PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr)
Location:	**ROTA**		**SALARY**
Position(s):	(1) Custodial/Maintenance-I		PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 21, 2023.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

NATO unity boosted on eve of summit

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine last year, NATO has been more relevant than ever.

Now, it must be more united than ever. In some respects, it's already heading that way. Especially after Turkey ended its hold on Sweden's bid to join the 31-member alliance on Monday, the eve of a crucial two-day NATO Summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Sweden was supposed to join at the same time Finland did this year in a welcome development for the West but a worrying one for Moscow. But its bid had been held up by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's demands regarding the extradition of some members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, whom the Turkish government considers terrorists, as well as revulsion over Sweden allowing Qur'an burning at some protests.

Ankara's objections weren't just with Stockholm, however, but with Washington as well. A deal to buy advanced U.S. fighter jets has been held up by Congress because of Turkey's previous purchase of a Russian defense system—just one of the many manifestations of what recently has been a too-close Turkey-Russia relationship.

Reports of the accord suggest that Sweden and Turkey will work together on terrorism, that NATO will institute a new "special coordinator for counterterrorism," and that Sweden will help renew Turkey's bid to enter a separate political entity, the European Union. (Hungary, which had also balked at Sweden's ascension, is likely to drop its objections after Turkey made its move.)

"It's a good sign for NATO if, in fact, Erdogan now is trying to recalibrate or rebalance his relations with the West," Thomas Hanson, chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations Minnesota, told an editorial writer on Monday.

However, there's still a key membership question for NATO nations: Responding to Ukraine's bid to eventually join the defense alliance.

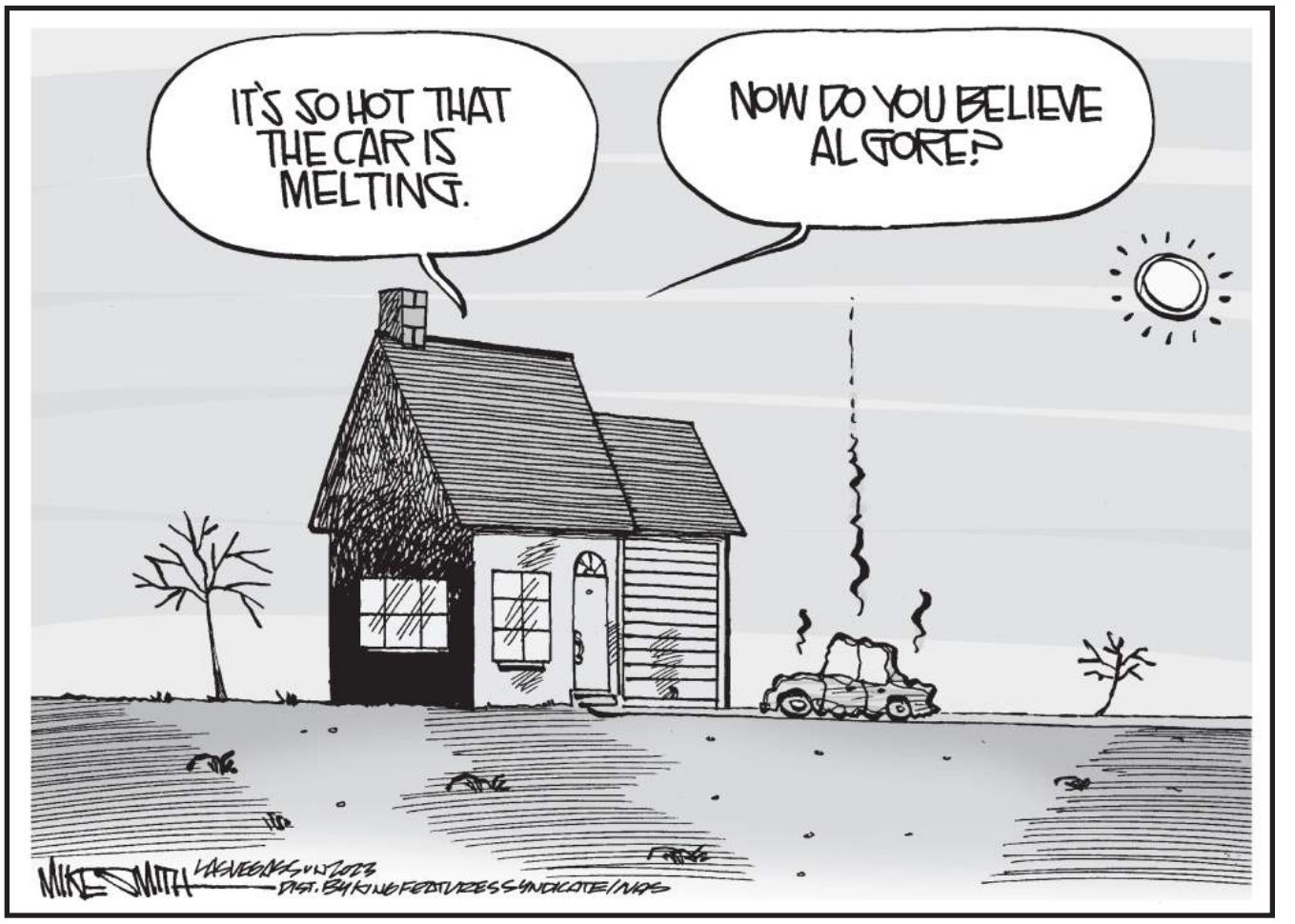
While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy seems to understand the reluctance to allow Ukraine to join while combat is raging—lest NATO find itself at war with Russia—he's justifiably looking for a process and a timeline instead of vague promises, as happened in 2008 when the alliance gestured to Georgia and Ukraine that they'd be allowed to join, a signal that seemed to be taken more seriously in Moscow than Washington.

President Joe Biden seems reluctant, a position that might be shared with some alliance members but at odds with front-line countries in the Baltics and Eastern Europe who face Russian revanchism more directly.

Ukraine has proven to be more than a worthy Western partner, with an incredibly intrepid and motivated military and citizenry. As Ukrainians face even more sacrifices in their existential struggle against a ruthless Russian invasion, they deserve clarity on the process for eventual NATO membership.

To its credit, and to Moscow's miscalculation, the alliance rallied around Kyiv and has helped turn what the Kremlin believed would be a rout into a stalemate in the eastern portion of the country, where Ukrainian forces face slow going in their counteroffensive designed to repel Russian troops from entrenched positions.

See NATO on Page 9



Clinical trials are better at including women. But data analysis is still a real problem.

By NICOLE WOITOWICH
Chicago Tribune

Nicole Woitowich, Ph.D., is a biomedical scientist at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago.

The summer of 1993 was an eventful time: Prince changed his name to a symbol, "Jurassic Park" was released and Congress passed the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act requiring the inclusion of women in clinical research.

Most people aren't aware of this law, which requires that women be included in research to develop drugs, therapies and treatments that are designed to improve the health of all people. For decades, women were underrepresented in or excluded from biomedical research studies because they could become pregnant or their hormones were deemed "too complicated." This caused large gaps in our understanding of how sex and gender inform health and disease.

Because men made up the majority of research participants, women's health suffered. Drugs, therapies and medical devices were developed with the male patient in mind. A 2001 Government Accountability Report found that 8 out of 10 drugs pulled from the market had greater health risks for women than for men. And in 2013—a full 21 years after the sleep aid had been approved by the Food and Drug Administration—the FDA released the first sex-specific instructions for the prescription drug Ambien after women experienced significant side effects due to the fact that men and women metabolize the drug differently.

Flash-forward to the present moment: The NIH Revitalization Act has just entered its fourth decade. As a biomedical scientist who studies the intersection of sex, gender and science, I know this for certain: We still have a far way to go.

Most drugs and therapies are developed in laboratories and tested in cells or animals before they are eligible for clinical trials. However, for the first 20-plus years after the legislation was passed, the idea persisted that females—humans, rodents or otherwise—were simply "too complicated" to study. Scientists favored the use of male research subjects, leaving us with an often one-sided view of biology. In response, the NIH introduced a policy in 2016 requiring scientists to consider the sex of their subjects when designing experiments and reporting and analyzing their data.

Now scientists are more likely to include both sexes in their research studies, and women account for approximately 48% of clinical trial participants. That's phenomenal progress, but there's still one major problem: Scientists routinely fail to analyze their data by sex. When this happens, we have no way of knowing if males or females respond to treatments differently or if there are fundamental differences in the way they are affected by certain diseases or disorders—the differences get flattened by grouping the data together.

Analyzing data by sex helps us understand why some conditions are more common in men than women (or vice versa) and enables us to develop more effective, personalized medicine. It could also shorten the amount of time it takes for a drug to be developed and introduced to patients, which currently takes 10 to 15 years. Some patients simply don't have that kind of time to wait.

Recent studies have found that female scientists are more likely to analyze their data by sex compared with men. Whether they were motivated to do so by personal interests or an increased awareness of how sex and gender inform human health and disease remains less clear.

Maybe it's because women refuse to view themselves as complicated research subjects. We believe our data is worth collecting and analyzing. We know how crucial it is to have information regarding drug safety during pregnancy or to know how certain treatments may affect our menstrual cycles. (I'm looking at you, COVID-19 vaccines.) We know that women are disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune diseases and certain types of cancers and are diligently working toward better treatments or cures. Yet, because women are underrepresented in the biomedical workforce—particularly in leadership roles—our research questions remain unasked and unanswered, and our work underfunded.

The lack of investment in women's health research has economic consequences in addition to scientific ones. A report by Women's Health Access Matters, a nonprofit focused on health research and investment, found that investing $350 million in women-specific research would generate more than $14 billion in returns to the U.S. economy through increases in life expectancy, disease progression and quality of life.

Thirty years from now, I will be 67 and hopefully nearing retirement as I take my grandkids to see the 12th Jurassic Park sequel. I do not want to spend the rest of my career advocating for women's health.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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The cruel economics of life-saving drugs

By REKHA BASU
Tribune News Service

Rekha Basu's syndicated commentaries and articles have appeared in The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The International Herald Tribune *and* USA Today, *and newspapers in all but two U.S. states. She recently ended a 30- year career as a columnist for* The Des Moines Register. *She can be contacted at rekhabasu2@gmail.com.*

Ajit "Ayaan" Sharma, a skinny 11-year-old with dark eyes that gleam like headlights, bounces around a New Delhi home on the balls of his feet. He exudes an energetic spunk for a kid living with only one working lung – and that functioning at only 40%—because of cystic fibrosis. His father, Shiv Shankar Sharma, has worked in our New Delhi family home as an accountant for nearly three decades, but only on my trip back to India in March, after Ayaan's condition had deteriorated so he could no longer go to school, did I learn of his illness. Within a month of his birth, Ayaan was hospitalized for four months with pneumonia, 21 of those days on a ventilator. Now he spends six or more hours a day on a nebulizer and takes pancreatic enzymes before each meal, just to digest 30% to 40% of it.

Ayaan knows his coughing spells, chronic lung infections, breathing and digestive-tract ailments are all connected. Even his teeth don't work properly. "It's like—my lungs, they have a white thing on them," he explains of the excess mucous produced in cystic fibrosis patients by a defective protein in his CFTR gene. What hasn't been fully explained to him is that despite his parents' absolute dedication to making him better, and excellent care by his doctor, a system of international patent agreements has stood in the way of potentially saving his life.

A 2019 Washington Post report on the U.S. release of a cystic fibrosis drug 30 years in the making called Trikafta so promising that "Patients who were unsure about whether they should bother attending college because they had always known they would die young are now being told they should think about planning for retirement."

Sharma found hope reading it. But the realities of U.S. pharmaceutical pricing and patenting collided with disparities in income and access in the Global South.

Trikafta, a set of modulators of the defective protein, costs $250,000 a year in India. That's more than 69 times the average Indian middle-class salary. Most Indian jobs except for government ones don't come with health insurance, according to S.K. Kabra, Ayaan's doctor. So only government employees or the "very, very rich," could afford it. And it is patented by Vertex Pharmaceuticals, so no other company can produce it.

Trikafta's three main components combined cost only $5,700, says Kabra, who teaches at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. Yet "Companies are charging more than 100 times the cost involved in preparation." Vertex says it has agreements in more than 40 foreign countries to reimburse some of Trikafta's costs. But the Journal of Cystic Fibrosis reported last year that because of the price, only 12% of the estimated 162,000 people with cystic fibrosis worldwide are getting it. It costs even more in the United States, but at least it's covered by health insurance.

But Americans also suffer under the sky high costs of brand name prescriptions. In his February State of the Union speech, President Joe Biden decried Big Pharma for the $400 to $500 retail cost of insulin for diabetes, which he said costs about $10 a vial to make. However under his Inflation Reduction Act, the U.S. government will from 2026 be able to negotiate some drug prices under Medicare, he promised. Such negotiation has been barred since 2003, when Medicare Part D was created.

The U.S. argument for granting drug companies monopolies through patents has been to encourage their spending on research and development of new cures. Yet more research and development by pharma companies has not improved the lot of terminally ill people at home, according to several studies. In America, one in four uninsured or underinsured people are unable to fill their prescriptions because of patents.

India has also has had to allow them under the World Trade Organization's 1994 Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement. Subsequent revisions, and other U.S. trade agreements, have further eroded public health safeguards there.

But cystic fibrosis patient advocates abroad are seeing some wiggle room. In February, some petitioned governments in India, South Africa, Brazil and Ukraine to revoke or suspend Vertex's patents for Trikafta or CFTR modulator drugs, focusing on a TRIPS provision that allows a government to permit another party to produce a patented product without the patent owner's agreement.

With retail drug prices so out of whack with corporate profits, new life-saving drugs do little for dying patient who can't afford them. In countries with single-payer health systems, governments can and do negotiate lower drug prices. But since U.S. political forces have blocked such a system here, the federal government should at least stop granting patents for medicines that could save people's lives. As for drug research, that role could be taken over by the government and/or public universities.

Ayaan has plans to someday be a builder and to test his Spanish fluency in Spain. His optimism and resilience are testaments to his parents' encouragement. They're so protective, they've kept his illness a secret even from their families, knowing that some would urge them to end their efforts for him. Instead, Sharma became a trustee of www.cysticfibrosisindia.org. Managing cystic fibrosis can be demanding and costly, and with hope for an accessible cure so remote, that's a common response, explains Kabra.

But Trikafta could improve the quality of Ayaan's life even if it's too late to save it. Lately he has lately been developing physical fears his doctor considers a byproduct of psychological stress. "I walk on my toes because on my heels, I feel that I will fall," he says. Even sitting in a barber's chair scares him. Almost 60% of Kabra's 400-some cystic fibrosis patients go into depression, as early as 12 years old. So Ayaan's optimistic outlook could be approaching its own shelf life.

For those who might read this and ask, "Why should India get special consideration?" it shouldn't. The question is why a corporate sector should get to dictate who lives and dies. We as Americans should use our voices and our votes to demand our government ensure life-saving medicines are accessible to all who need them, including the Ayaans of the world. It's time to treat health care as the human right that it is.

Climate change is worsening the world's refugee crisis. Here's one way leaders can help

By RWAIDA GHARIB
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Refugees bring very little across borders, but they cling to their stories. These days they mostly want to talk about the weather.

The refugees I work with often say the same thing: It got hot. Then hotter. Then the jobs dried up and eventually the food did too. Add in political, racial or religious tensions, or a natural disaster that was the final straw. It all led to the same conclusion: There is no future here.

And these are from the "lucky ones" who made it out.

Today there are millions of climate refugees—people who have fled their homes because changes in the local environment made living conditions unsustainable—and estimates suggest that there will be more than 1 billion by 2050. Despite this, no nation in the world offers asylum on the grounds of fleeing environmental or climate emergencies.

Worsening climate conditions make increased migration inevitable. Research shows that as global temperatures rise, so do asylum applications, and those from the world's so-called hot spots are the first to try to leave. World governments need to adapt to meet this humanitarian crisis.

Most nations that offer asylum and international organizations aiding migrants adhere to guidelines set at the 1951 Refugee Convention, which offers protection to only those who are fleeing because of race, religion, nationality or affiliation with a particular social group or political opinion.

Yet more than 80% of refugees today are fleeing countries severely affected by climate change and where treacherous conflicts are exacerbated by catastrophic events such as floods, droughts and earthquakes. Last year there were 32.6 million new displacements triggered by natural disasters, the highest number in a decade and 41% higher than the annual average over the last 10 years.

Given that climate is increasingly a key driver of migration, or one of the many compounding reasons that could force a family to leave their home, the guidelines for asylum should be updated and a formal definition for climate refugees must be determined.

If an official definition for climate refugees is developed, funding support for these migrants could also increase. Budgets now earmarked strictly for climate could help support the millions in need.

Better legal frameworks at the national and international levels to protect and assist refugees, asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants are also needed. If leaders continue to avoid the problem, those seeking asylum from climate emergencies are left with, at best, temporary solutions.

Despite the difficult living situations and impossible regulations that migrants face, I have seen their incredible resilience and optimism over more than a decade, in refugee camps in Kenya, Turkey, Greece and Bangladesh.

Once, in 2017 on the Somali border, I interviewed families who had fled drought and famine for not much better conditions in neighboring Kenya. The refugee complex, consisting of three camps, housed just over 270,000 people at the time—almost twice the population of Pasadena. The average temperature was in the high 90s, drinking water was limited, and food rations were insufficient. Volatile religious and racial tensions had followed the migrants into the camp. And yet they were hopeful.

I sat with one young man who had been born in the camp, giving him no passport or birth certificate to enter Somalia or refugee status to enter Kenya. But he showed me a pixelated stock photo of a turquoise sea and stated, "One day I will go to the ocean."

We need a formal climate asylum status so that he and the millions like him can find security and paths to a better life.

Rwaida Gharib is a Yale Public Voices Fellow on the Climate Crisis. She will begin graduate work in environmental resources at Stanford in the fall.

NATO

From page 8

While the counteroffensive is likely to be a military slog, the diplomatic grind to get NATO nations to reach the requisite 2% of GDP on defense is showing significant progress. NATO announced that 11 out of the 31 members have hit that target (with at least 20% of that total on equipment). While that's still an unacceptably low rate, it's much improved since 2014, when the Obama administration led an effort to get laggard capitals to increase defense spending.

"The Vilnius summit is an opportunity to build concretely on the increased unity within NATO that we've seen since the Russian invasion," Hanson said.

And with that greater unity, NATO will be even more relevant.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

WELLNESS MISSION 2023

SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA

The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, under the Office of the Governor, in collaboration with the Department of Defense, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and various CNMI Community Partners are pleased to share information on the CNMI Operation Wellness Mission this July 2023.

NO COST TO THE COMMUNITY AND NO INSURANCE REQUIRED

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL OFFER:

- Healthcare Exam Services
- Optometry Services
- Dentistry Services
- Veterinary Care
- Behavioral & General Health Education

Behavioral & General Health Education

Saipan: July 12-16th, 8AM-6PM
July 17th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior - Senior High School

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 32-48 Rota- 16-24
Tinian- 16-24

SERVICES OFFERED:
Mental Health Education & Counseling in:
Tobacco Cessation, Coping Skills, Sleeping Problems, Relationship Problems
Substance Abuse Assessments

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Psychotherapy, Medication Management

Veterinary Care

Saipan: July 12-16th, 8AM-6PM
July 17th, 8AM-12PM
- Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Shelter
- Saipan Cares for Animals

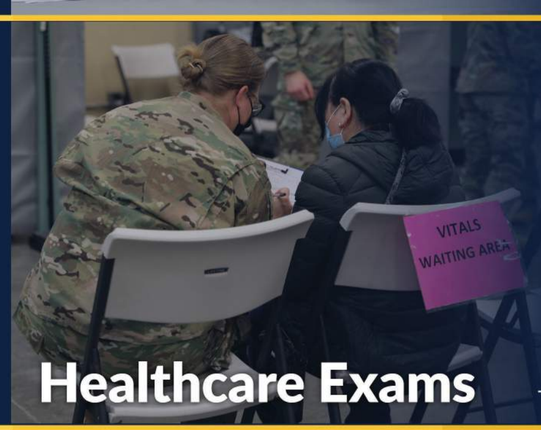
Tinian: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Tinian Dog Control Office

Rota: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior - Senior High School

1 Animal Per Household
ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – SCA: 12-15
Mayor's Shelter: 6-8
Tinian - 6-8
Rota - 6-8

SERVICES OFFERED:
Spay/ Neutering
Examinations
Fecals

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Euthanasia



Healthcare Exams

Saipan: July 12-16th, 8AM-6PM
July 17th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior - Senior High School

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 150 Rota- 50
Tinian- 50

SERVICES OFFERED:
School-Aged Physicals
Wellness Exams
Consultation on diabetes, obesity, kidney disease, hypertension, and gout.

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
No Labs / Bloodwork
Prescription Refills

Dental Services

Saipan: July 12-16th, 8AM-6PM
July 17th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior - Senior High School

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 25- 50
Tinian- 10-20
Rota- 10-20

SERVICES OFFERED:
Exams
Cleanings
Fillings
Extractions
X-rays

Optometry Services

Saipan: July 12-16th, 8AM-6PM
July 17th, 8AM-12PM
- Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Medical Care and Treatment Site (MCATS)

Tinian: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Tinian Junior - Senior High School

Rota: July 12-15th, 8AM-6PM
- Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior - Senior High School

ESTIMATED DAILY THROUGHPUT:
Saipan – 100-150
Rota –80-100
Tinian – 80-100

SERVICES OFFERED:
Vision Screening
Eye Exam
Prescription Glasses Fabrication

SERVICES NOT OFFERED:
Treatment for Glaucoma, Macular Degeneration, Cataracts, Eye Injury and/or Surgery.

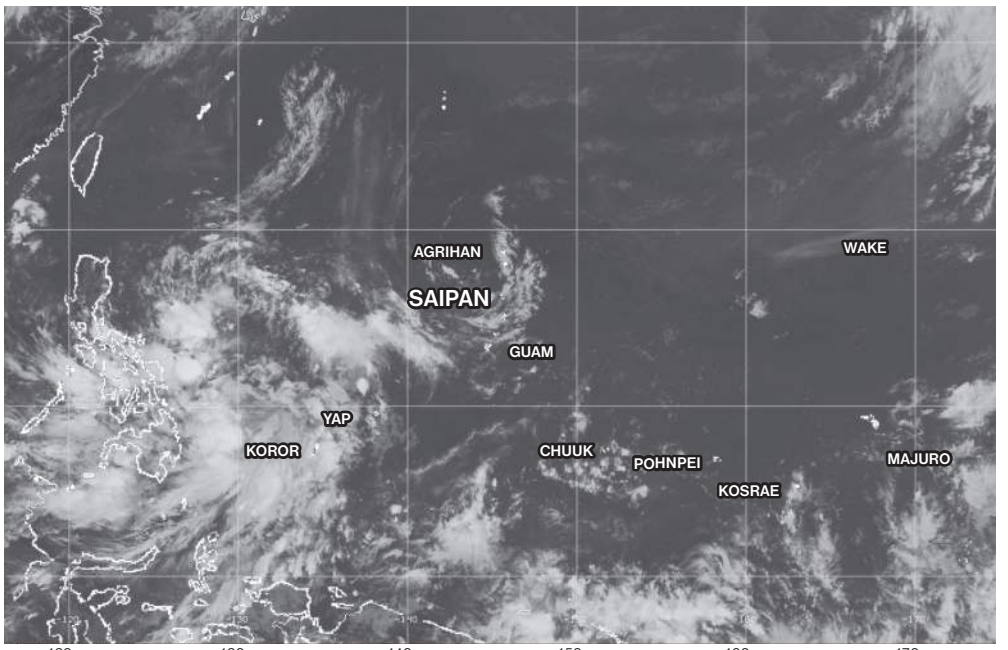
For more information, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Office at (670) 483-1812, (670) 785-0341, or (670) 483-1814

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	Partly sunny
86° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	88° 78°	88° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:36 AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, mainly composed of east trade-wind swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:53 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:48 AM	3:02 PM	-
Friday	2:33 AM	3:58 PM	-
Saturday	3:22 AM	4:53 PM	-
Sunday	4:13 AM	5:47 PM	-
Monday	5:06 AM	6:38 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy/Wind	58° / 53°
Beijing	Showers	85° / 74°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Showers	71° / 56°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	60° / 50°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	90° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 76°
Osaka	Scattered Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°
Busan	Scattered Thunderstorms	79° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	95° / 75°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	92° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 54°
Seoul	Scattered Thunderstorms	78° / 76°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	94° / 78°
Washington, DC	Sunny	94° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:12 AM	High Tide	2.08
10:56 AM	Low Tide	0.15
6:14 PM	High Tide	1.78
10:45 PM	Low Tide	1.45

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174 via Guam	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1 July 19	Daily up to
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1 Aug 20	6, 4 July 23 to
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING

WELLNESS MISSION 2023

SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA

Please take note of these instructions.

Step 1: Don't go to CHCC
Step 2: Proceed to American Memorial Park Softball Field for Registration.
Step 3: For Directions, follow the blue signs to reach your destination.
Step 4: Drive to the Parking Area (shown on the map).
Step 5: Proceed to the blue sign "Main Registration Area".
Step 6: Sign the Registration form and choose ONE Medical service only for each patient.
Step 7: You will be given a color-coded wristband.
Step 8: Proceed to the "Patient Waiting Area"
Step 9: Wait to be called as it is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Step 10: Once you are called you will wait at the "Shuttle Waiting Area".
Step 11: A shuttle will pick you up along with other patients and drive up to CHCC MCATS.
Step 12: Drop off at the CHCC MCATS "Waiting Area" and you will wait to be called.
Step 13: CBMA Staff will be there for any assistance and Military Personnel will guide you to your choice of Medical Service.
Step 14: After being seen the Military Personnel will guide you out the "Exit Waiting Area", and they will remove your color-coded band.
Step 15: You will wait until the shuttle comes to pick up the batch of patients and transport them back down to American Memorial Park Softball Field.
Step 16: If in any case, you want to be seen again for another Medical Service, you may proceed back to STEP 2 and follow through the same process.

** Water will be provided for the patients while waiting at American Memorial Park Softball Field and Patients are advised to bring a snack or something to eat due to the wait time being unpredictable. **

For any inquiries contact CBMA at (670) 483-1812, (670) 785-0341, (670) 483-1814, or (670) 789-3559.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting

July 27, 2023 | 2:00 PM
Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan
Tel: 670-234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666

AGENDA

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of 07/27/23 Meeting Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/29/2022, 01/04/2023, 06/08/23, 06/29/23 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comments (not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

B.I. Old Business

1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13864** – Da Dankery is proposing to occupy the ground floor level of a preexisting Two-Story building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use measuring **49'.7" (W) x 26'.2" (L).** And to also construct One (1) detached structure measuring **16'.10" (L) x 24'.10" (W) x 15' (H)** for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural.

2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13866** – Max Investments, LLC is proposing to occupy Unit 1 on the ground floor of the Palacios Building measuring **30'.6" (L) x 31' (W) x 10'.6" (H)** for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 008 D 11 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Tourist Resort.

B.II. New Business

3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14622** – Elevated Minds, LLC is proposing to renovate and enclose an area measuring **15'.6" (W) x 23' (L) x 9' (H)** within its warehouse unit for its "Cannabis Retail" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 009 L 04 in the village of Agingan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14613** – Coconut Grove, LLC is proposing to occupy an area measuring **19'.10" (W) x 39'.6" (L) x 15'.1" (H)** within a preexisting warehouse structure for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 032 E 03 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14621** – Saipan Marijuana Farms, Inc. is proposing to occupy an area measuring **37' (W) x 57'.9" (L) x 10'.8" (H)** on the second floor of the Olibas Building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 007 D 08 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

6. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14572** – Yu Bo Corporation dba Canna Pacific is proposing to occupy an area measuring **12'.5" (W) x 10'.11" (L) x 9' (H)** on the ground floor of a preexisting Three-Story commercial building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 F 09 in the village of San Jose. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

7. **Conditional Use Application #2020-13868** – Tamaraw, LLC is proposing to utilize an area within an preexisting building measuring **24' (L) x 20' (W) x 15' (H)** for its "Vehicle Repair – General" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 551 in the village of Afetnas. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

8. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14604** – Tamaraw, LLC is proposing to utilize a preexisting One-Story building measuring **24' (L) x 100' (W) x 10' (H)** for its "Institutional Residential" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 551 in the village of Afetnas. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

9. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14619** – Sensi Stay is proposing to utilize the third-floor level of Pacific Sunrise Building measuring **80' (W) x 36'(L) x 10' (H)** for its "Hotel/Motel/Guest House" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 001 D 33 and 001 D 34 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan Core.

10. **Conditional Use Application #2020-14566** – Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an area within an preexisting warehouse structure measuring **39'.8" (W) x 39'.8" (L) x 12'.6" (H)** for its "Manufacturing and Processing" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot E.A. 693-2B in the village of China Town. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

C. Adjournment

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Environment

S. Korea vouches for safety of plans to release nuke wastewater

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's government on Friday formally endorsed the safety of Japanese plans to release treated wastewater from the damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean as it tried to calm people's fears of food contamination.

The assessment was based on a 22-month review by government-funded scientists and aligns with the International Atomic Energy Agency's views. The agency greenlit the Japanese discharge plans this week, saying the treated wastewater would meet international safety standards and pose negligible environmental and health impacts.

South Korea's review focused on any impact the wastewater release might have on South Korea, and "the result showed that its effect on our waters would be insignificant," Bang Moon-kyu, the minister of the Office for Government Policy Coordination, said at a news conference.

LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Bang Moon-kyu, South Korea's minister of the Office for Government Policy Coordination, speaks during a briefing in Seoul, South Korea, Friday, July 7, 2023.

Even before Friday's announcement, South Korean officials were actively working to reduce public unease about the wastewater release, holding daily briefings to address what they described as "excessive fears" and expanding radiation tests on fish imported from Japan or caught in nearby seas.

Conservative lawmakers from President Yoon Suk Yeol's governing party have even toured a seafood market to drink sea water taken from fish tanks in a bizarre gesture to certify food safety, although no wastewater has been released from Fukushima yet.

Public concerns persist as retailers report an increase in sea salt sales, apparently driven by consumers looking to stock up ahead of the release.

Liberal opposition lawmakers, who control a majority in South Korea's parliament, have vowed an all-out fight against the Japanese discharge plans and accuse Yoon's government of putting the nation's health at risk by desperately trying to improve relations with Tokyo.

"Japan says there are no problems science-wise, but I am still a little concerned," said Yang Ok-ryeo, a 56-year-old fishmonger at Seoul's Noryangjin seafood market, where lawmakers drank from fish tanks last week.

Lim Young, a 55-year-old customer at the market, expressed similar worries.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Coconut Grove, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Coconut Grove, LLC is proposing to occupy an area measuring 19'.10" (W) x 39'.6" (L) x 15'.1" (H) within a preexisting warehouse structure for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 032 E 03 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Da Dankery

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Da Dankery is proposing to occupy the ground floor level of a preexisting Two-Story building for its "Cannabis Farm" Use measuring 49'.7" (W) x 26'.2" (L). And to also construct One (1) detached structure measuring 16'.10" (L) x 24'.10" (W) x 15' (H) for its "Cannabis Farm" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot No. 044 K 07 in the village of Dandan. This area is zoned as Rural. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an area within an preexisting warehouse structure measuring 39'.8" (W) x 39'.8" (L) x 12'.6" (H) for its "Manufacturing and Processing" Use. This use is permitted in the area as a Conditional Use. The site is located on Lot E.A. 693-2B in the village of China Town. This area is zoned as Village Commercial. A public hearing will be held on:

Date: July 27, 2023
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: Oleai Elementary School Cafeteria
Oleai, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3pm, July 26, 2023. Please send written comments via e-mail to y.alepuyo@dof.gov.mp via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 5911 CLL Plaza, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Chalan Lau Lau (former IT&E Office).

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 670-234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Henry S. Hofschneider, Chairman

Life & Style

Indonesia welcomes the return of jewels, temple carvings

LEIDEN, Netherlands (AP)—The Netherlands and Indonesia on Monday hailed the return of hundreds of cultural artifacts taken—sometimes by force—during colonial times as a major step forward in restitution efforts worldwide.

The items, ranging from valuable jewels to 13th-century temple carvings, were officially handed back to Indonesia at a ceremony at the Museum Volkenkunde in Leiden.

AP

Cultural artefacts are handed back to Indonesia during a ceremony in Leiden, Netherlands, Monday, July 10, 2023.

"We are really delighted. This is a very historic moment for both us, Indonesia, and the Netherlands. And the relationship between the two," said Hilmar Farid, director general of cultural heritage at Indonesia's Ministry of Culture. "But I think what we have achieved so far is also a very significant contribution to the global debate about returning of colonial objects."

The Dutch government announced the return last week of the Indonesian treasures and looted artifacts from Sri Lanka. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry welcomed the decision and said the Indian Ocean nation will work to preserve the items, including a richly decorated ceremonial cannon.

They are the first artifacts returned home on the advice of a Dutch committee set up in 2022 to assess requests by countries for restitution of artifacts in state museums. The committee is considering more restitution requests from Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Nigeria.

Indonesia got back more than the trove of glittering jewels and ancient carvings from a temple in Java, said Farid.

"We consider these objects as our missing items in our historical narrative and of course they play different roles symbolically, culturally," he said. Their return means Indonesia can "reintegrate them into their cultural contexts. And that is, of course, of symbolic importance to us."

Gunay Uslu, the Dutch state secretary for culture and media, called the presentation Monday "a historically, important" event that resonates beyond the Netherlands and its former colony.

"It's also an important moment for the world because it's about colonial objects in a colonial context. So it's a sensitive topic," she said.

A Berlin museum announced in January it is ready to return hundreds of human skulls from the former German colony of East Africa. In 2021, France said it was returning statues, royal thrones and sacred altars taken from the West African nation of Benin. And last year, Belgium returned a gold-capped tooth belonging to the slain Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba.

Jury decides 2014 document found in Aretha Franklin's couch is a valid will

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—A document handwritten by singer Aretha Franklin and found in her couch after her 2018 death is a valid Michigan will, a jury said Tuesday, a critical turn in a dispute that has turned her sons against each other.

It's a victory for Kecalf Franklin and Edward Franklin whose lawyers had argued that papers dated 2014 should override a 2010 will that was discovered around the same time in a locked cabinet at the Queen of Soul's home in suburban Detroit.

The jury deliberated less than an hour after a brief trial that started Monday. After the verdict was read, Aretha Franklin's grandchildren stepped forward from the first row to hug Kecalf and Edward.

"I'm very, very happy. I just wanted my mother's wishes to be adhered to," Kecalf Franklin said. "We just want to exhale right now. It's been a long five years for my family, my children."

Aretha Franklin was a global star for decades, known especially for hits like "Think," "I Say a Little Prayer" and "Respect." She did not leave behind a formal, typewritten will when she died five years ago at age 76.

But documents, with scribbles and hard-to-decipher passages, emerged in 2019 when a niece scoured the home for records.

In closing arguments, lawyers for Kecalf and Edward Franklin said the fact that the 2014 papers were found in a notebook in couch cushions did not make them less significant.

"You can take your will and leave it on the kitchen counter. It's still your will," Charles McKelvie told the jury.

Another lawyer, Craig Smith, pointed to the first line of the document, which was displayed on four large posters in front of the jury.

"Says right here: 'This is my will.' She's speaking from the grave, folks," Smith said of Franklin.

In Loving Memory of
Josephine C. Dela Cruz
Born to Life: May 15, 1955
Called to Eternal Life:
July 8, 2023 at Honolulu, Hawaii
In her new life she now joins her:
Son: +Mariano Dela Cruz
Reared Parents: +Mariano F. & +Maria E. Aquino
Parents: +Francisco Masga Dela Cruz & +Ana Terlaje Cogure
Brothers: +Antonio Aquino (Yap), +Sixtus E. Aquino,
+Regino E. Aquino, +Daniel E. Aquino, +Quirino E. Aquino
Sisters: +Margarita Aquino (Yap), +Alicia C. /+Roger Galang,
+Julie C. Dela Cruz
Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:
Daughter and Spouse: Tina Dela Cruz/Keith Robert P. Pangelinan
Grandson: Drake Constantine D. Pangelinan
Granddaughters: Danica Jade D. Pangelinan, Britney Madison D. Pangelinan
Miah Renisha Peter Dela Cruz
Brothers & Sisters:
Juan E. /Marylee P. Aquino & Family
Remedio Elameto & Family
Cynthia D./+Ambrose Pushparaj & Family
Lou D./Bob J. Lloyd & Son
Bernie D./Jim Clevenger & Family
Francisco C. Dela Cruz
Lucia D./Vicente Torres & Family
Joseph C./Virginia A. Dela Cruz & Family
Erokolano C./Maryann T. Dela Cruz & Family
Rudy C./Rheeta Dela Cruz & Son
She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, and Friends.
Daily Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church. Monday to Saturday at 6pm, and 7am on Sundays.
Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You
From the Family

Boyfriend puts relationship on hold after sister's death

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend lost his sister unexpectedly to a heart attack. She was only 50. I'm trying to be there for him and give him his space while he's grieving. The thing is, he has stopped responding or contacting me. Every few days, I'd send him words of support, but he doesn't respond—not with a "thank you" or anything. This has been happening for the past week.

Finally, I figured that he's ghosting me and no longer wants to be bothered with me but doesn't want to say it. So I told him I didn't want to add to his stress, that I felt he was over our relationship and I wouldn't bother him anymore. He responded, saying I'm taking it too personally, there's nothing I can do to help and it's something he has to go through.

I know that. I understand grieving. But am I supposed to just wait until he feels like talking or being bothered with me, for however long it takes? I'm trying to be understanding, but for someone to just cut you off and not even acknowledge you is awful. I mean, he's completely emotionally unavailable, like I don't exist! I don't know what to do.

PUSHED ASIDE IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PUSHED: Here's what to do. Back off! Since you understand grieving, you must know that no two people grieve exactly alike or on the same timetable. Your boyfriend has told you explicitly what he needs. If you care about him, give him space and stop personalizing this. His emotional needs must come before your own right now. Distract yourself by seeing friends or involving yourself in activities you can enjoy for the next month or so. If you do, when he's feeling more like himself again, he will come back to you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work from home, so I do not need to get dressed up every day. I wear T-shirts and athletic shorts because I usually coach my sons in after-school sports and want to be comfortable. Every day, my wife complains about my appearance, comparing me to other fathers. She also has no problem yelling about it in front of my kids or her family. This happens often. She says, "People won't want to do business with you if you dress like that!"

Anytime I see a client, I dress for the occasion. Since she seems to have no problem saying anything about my appearance, can I say something about the weight she has gained over the last couple of years? Since she says stuff like that to me, I think it's only fair that I should be allowed to say something to her.

COMFORTABLE IN THE EAST

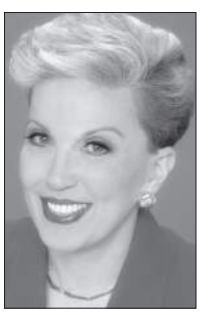
DEAR COMFORTABLE: Say anything you wish, but before you open your mouth, ask yourself whether it would be helpful or inflame the situation. Many people prefer to dress casually, and sometimes others can be judgmental about it—your wife being only one of them. As strongly as your wife may feel about your choice of attire, she's wrong to criticize you in front of others, because berating you will not improve the state of your marriage.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

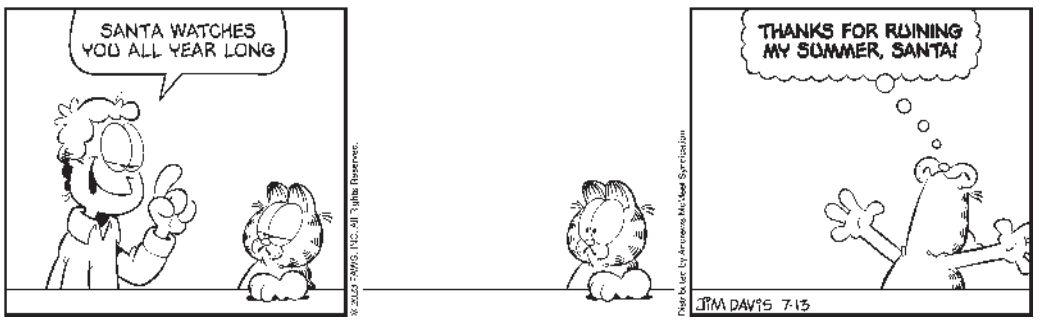
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MY ELBOWS ARE GRASS-STAINED, I'VE GOT STICKS IN MY HAIR, I'M COVERED WITH BUG BITES AND CUTS AND SCRATCHES...
I'VE GOT SAND IN MY SOCKS AND LEAVES IN MY SHIRT, MY HANDS ARE STICKY WITH SAP, AND MY SHOES ARE SOAKED! I'M HOT, DIRTY, SWEATY, ITCHY AND TIRED.
I SAY CONSIDER THIS DAY SEIZED!
TOMORROW WE'LL SEIZE THE DAY AND THROTTLE IT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

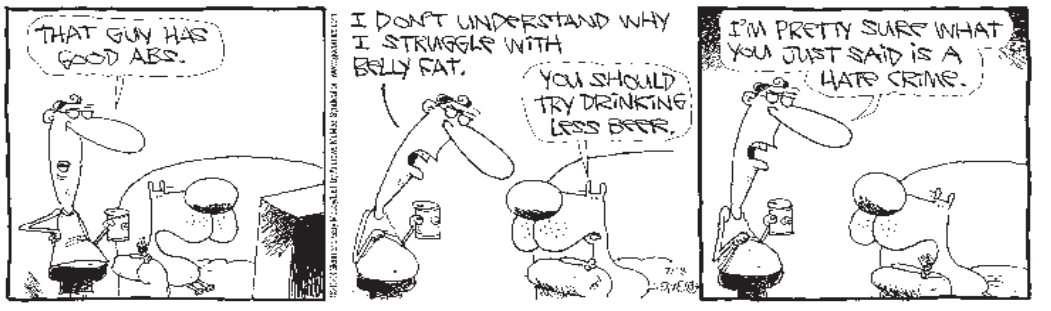


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THAT GUY HAS GOOD ABS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY I STRUGGLE WITH BELLY FAT.
YOU SHOULD TRY DRINKING LESS BEER.
I'M PRETTY SURE WHAT YOU JUST SAID IS A HATE CRIME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

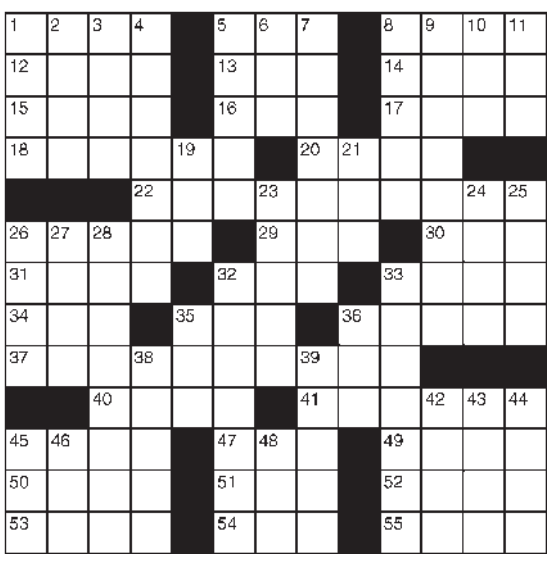
1 Ties the knot
5 Speck
8 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
12 Idle or Bana
13 Opposite of peace
14 Top-of-the-line
15 DVR brand
16 Bordeaux summer
17 Women's links org.
18 Date with a medium
20 Stead
22 Color akin to ultramarine
26 Plus
29 Insult
30 Notre Dame coach
31 Oodles
32 Overhead trains
33 Cicatrix
34 "So that's it!"
35 — tai
36 Compete in a bee
37 Pastel shade
40 Future tulip
41 Region of Spain
45 Gratis
47 Last (Abbr.)
49 Vegas game
50 Barbie, e.g.
51 Summer hrs.
52 Golden Rule preposition
53 Breaks down
54 WNBA star — Bird
55 Drudge

DOWN

1 Saturates
2 Toledo's lake
3 Prima donna
4 Candle holders
5 Nerd
6 Muffin type
7 Vine-supporting frame
8 Novelist Carr
9 Citizenry
10 Director Lee
11 Salty expanse
19 Camp bed
21 "— a miracle!"
23 Extemporize
24 Russian river
25 British noble
26 On
27 London district
28 Buffalo's region
32 iPod accessories
33 "Say something!"
35 Actor Gibson
36 California's Big —
38 One-on-one battles
39 Coffee bar order
42 Hereditary unit
43 Aware of
44 Lunch hour
45 Dime portrait
46 Kanga's kid
48 Baton Rouge sch.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ken Jeong, 54; Cheech Marin, 77; Harrison Ford, 81; Patrick Stewart, 83.

Happy Birthday: Helping others will change your life and perspective on what's important this year. Look for alternatives that will help you and others, and you'll gain confidence and support to do something that benefits many. What you do will make a difference. Let your actions come from the heart, and your sincerity will shine through and attract compatible people. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 26, 33, 40, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Mix business with pleasure, and something good will transpire. Don't be afraid to make changes or to ask for something you want. Do your part, and your effort won't go unnoticed. Share your thoughts and follow through. Personal change will be emotional. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your eyes open. Take care of your responsibilities, regardless of what's going on around you. Refuse to let anyone play mind games with your heart. Call the shots instead of letting someone else take control. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't reveal secrets or spread gossip. Someone is likely to feed you false information to throw you off guard. Take an interest in everything and everyone, and offer positive suggestions and facts to back your thoughts. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Take the road less traveled and see where it leads. Let your discoveries fuel your imagination and encourage you to learn all you can to make your journey successful. What you do will exceed your expectations. Be cautious when money is at stake. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make subtle changes to help sensitive situations. Being the ambassador of goodwill will encourage others to join your team. Put your heart into whatever you choose, and change whatever isn't working for you. Choose peace and love. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Choose to be understanding and compassionate instead of letting anger take over and negativity and criticism prevail. You'll gain respect and loyalty if you solve problems instead of adding fuel to the fire. Be positive. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Call on those you trust. The discussions you have will change the way your day unfolds. A positive attitude will prompt suggestions that encourage you to choose healthy behaviors, peace and love. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be a good friend. Listening and observing will give you the tools to help the people you care about make better decisions. Enhance your life by exploring a creative outlet that interests you. Your strength comes from working toward something positive. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Search for the truth before you make recommendations. How you handle emotional situations will determine how others treat you. Contemplate the best way to help others without endangering yourself. Proceed with compassion and understanding. Invest in your future. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let a change at home lead to worry and stress. Live within your means and be grateful for what you have. Invest in yourself, and learn skills that would help you manage your finances better. Don't let your emotions lead to unnecessary spending. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Manufacture the perfect setup at home to ensure you make the most of your day and reach your goals without trepidation. Take control instead of letting others dictate what happens next. Personal gain is within reach if you put yourself first. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Don't be too eager to share your intentions. A friend or relative will interfere with your plans if given the chance. Keep your emotions well hidden from negative individuals. A chance to create an opportunity to increase your income looks promising. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, caring and imaginative. You are cautious and patient.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3		4						8
7		6	8	4	5		3	
	1	5			6	4		9
								3
4			6	8				
5	7			1			8	
2	5			6	8		4	
				5	2			
6					7			

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesturday's Answer

3	2	4	5	9	1	7	6	8
5	8	9	4	6	7	3	1	2
1	6	7	3	2	8	5	4	9
8	5	2	7	1	9	6	3	4
7	1	3	2	4	6	8	9	5
9	4	6	8	3	5	1	2	7
2	7	1	6	5	4	9	8	3
6	3	5	9	8	2	4	7	1
4	9	8	1	7	3	2	5	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/12

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

R.O.F.L. (TEXT LINGO) **Solution:** 7 letters

S	O	C	I	A	L	M	E	D	I	A	Ⓣ	Ⓐ	Ⓗ	Ⓒ
Y	N	O	I	S	S	E	R	P	X	E	C	A	F	O
M	L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	X	R	E	F	R	M
B	I	N	T	E	R	N	E	T	S	T	N	A	I	M
O	N	O	F	O	L	M	S	U	A	O	W	M	E	E
L	E	O	L	U	A	E	O	C	I	I	O	I	N	N
T	E	T	O	G	N	I	I	T	T	D	R	L	D	T
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Svitolina has Ukraine war, her baby in mind as she beats Swiatek

AP
Ukraine's Elina Svitolina celebrates after beating Poland's Iga Swiatek to win their women's singles match on day nine of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday, July 11, 2023.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—The last time Elina Svitolina was Grand Slam semifinalist—twice, actually, in 2019—she was pursuing the usual trappings of success in professional sports: trophies, money, fame, etc.

Now Svitolina plays for more important reasons. For her daughter, Skaï, who was born in October. For her country, Ukraine, where a war that began with Russia's invasion in February 2022 continues to this day.

And Svitolina firmly believes that those quite different factors actually do affect the way she swings a racket and the way she handles important moments on a tennis court. Enough so that she is one of the last four women remaining at Wimbledon after adding to her series of surprising victories over major champions with a 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory against No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek on Tuesday.

"War made me stronger and also made me mentally stronger. Mentally, I don't take difficult situations as, like, a disaster, you know? There are worse things in life. I'm just more calmer," said Svitolina, 28, who once was ranked as high No. 3 and now is No. 76 after taking time off to start a family with her husband, tennis player Gael Monfils.

She only returned to the tour three months ago.

"Also, because I just started to play again, I have different pressures," Svitolina said after kneeling down, then covering her face with her hands, when Swiatek missed one last forehand at Centre Court. "Of course, I want to win. I have this motivation, like huge motivation, to come back to the top. But I think having a child—and war—made me a different person. I look at the things a bit differently."

She received a wild-card entry from the All England Club to get into the field and now will face another unseeded player, 42nd-ranked Marketa Vondrousova, for a berth in Saturday's final.

Vondrousova, the 2019 French Open runner-up, beat fourth-seeded Jessica Pegula 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 by grabbing the last five games after being a point from trailing 5-1 in the last set at No. 1 Court. Pegula dropped to 0-6 in major quarterfinals.

"I don't know what happened," the left-handed Vondrousova said.

Both women's matches Tuesday were interrupted when rain arrived and the courts' roofs were shut so play could continue. Swiatek used the break to animatedly chat with her sports psychologist, who was up in the stands, then headed toward an off-court lounge to huddle with her coach.

None of that helped her figure out what was wrong with her spin-heavy forehand, which accounted for 57 total errors—28 unforced, 29 forced—and 22 winners.

Swiatek, who was coming off claiming her fourth Grand Slam title at the French Open last month, felt the change in the way Svitolina smacked balls over the Centre Court net. That included a stretch where Svitolina won 20 of 22 points during a stretch that spanned the end of the first set and start of the second.

"She played with more freedom and more guts. Sometimes, she really just let go of her hand," Swiatek said, pantomiming a forehand, "and she played really, really fast."

Novak Djokovic reached his 46th Slam semifinal — tying Roger Federer's record for men — by defeating No. 7 Andrey Rublev 4-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3, and next will face No. 8 Jannik Sinner. Djokovic is seeking a fifth consecutive championship at Wimbledon and an eighth overall—numbers that also would equal Federer—and his 24th career Grand Slam trophy.

Sinner made it to his first major semifinal by eliminating Roman Safiullin 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

"It means a lot me," Sinner said. "We put a lot of work in—many, many hours off court, a lot of sacrifice—for this moment."

Svitolina certainly did not expect to still be around this deep into the fortnight. She originally wasn't even planning to get back in action after giving birth until around now. But she and Monfils started working out together on Jan. 2, and Svitolina's progress was substantial enough that she altered her timeline.

Good call.

She added the win against Swiatek to those against seven-time major champion Venus Williams in the first round, 2020 Australian Open winner Sofia Kenin in the third, and two-time Australian Open champ Victoria Azarenka in the fourth.

There is definitely a sense of urgency with all of this.

"It's less years that I have in front than behind me. I have to go for it. I don't have time to lose anymore. I don't know how many years I will be playing," Svitolina said. "You practice for these moments, for these big moments."

And for the kinds of moments that come after she leaves the court.

On Tuesday, Svitolina FaceTimed with Skaï, who is at home in Monte Carlo with Monfils and the new grandparents.

"She was really distracted with her ice cream, so I was not the priority there," Svitolina said. "She is still at this age when she doesn't care if I win, if I lose."

There are, naturally, those who do care. A lot.

Svitolina's phone has been inundated by messages of support from her her native country, and she's seen videos of kids there following her matches.

"This really makes my heart melt, seeing this," she said. "Just happy I could bring a little happiness to the people of Ukraine."

Chris Paul reveals plenty about his motivation

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Chris Paul worked out with new teammate Stephen Curry on Sunday morning in Las Vegas. His assessment of the session: They didn't miss too many shots.

Evidently, Paul's time with the Golden State Warriors is off to a flying start.

The veteran point guard revealed more than a few things in his first official interview session as a member of the Warriors: He isn't ready to concede that he's no longer a starter, he doesn't expect this to be his final season as a player and he gleans the same joy from the game now as he did when he was a kid.

And as for how it'll all fit, he doesn't expect that to be a problem.

"Not to like sound crazy or whatnot, but at the end of the day, it's basketball," Paul said. "You know, it's not brain surgery. I'm going into a situation with a bunch of guys who've been playing together for a long time."

Paul got traded twice this summer, first from Phoenix to Washington as part of the move that sent Bradley Beal to the Suns, and then again to Golden State as part of the move that sent Jordan Poole to the Wizards.

It's a move that the Warriors hope leads to both short- and long-term gains. The 38-year-old Paul can still play; the 12-time All-Star averaged 13.9 points and 8.9 assists this past season for Phoenix, effective still in his 18th season in the league.

He's also not under contract after this coming season. Poole is entering a four-year deal; the big-spending Warriors just couldn't keep all their highest-paid players together given the constraints of the new Collective Bargaining Agreement.

"I've been fortunate enough to play on three USA teams, '06, '08 and 2012," Paul said. "It's high-IQ basketball, guys that play off reads and whatnot, and what you learn is you figure it out. Everybody don't have the answers right now. We'll practice, I'm sure there's going to be some things that I've got to learn, some things that they've got to learn about me, but that's the case with any team."

He has appeared in 1,214 regular-season games and another 149 in the playoffs, and has started every single one of them. But it obviously seems unlikely that he would supplant guards Stephen Curry or Klay Thompson in Golden State's starting lineup.

So, at 38 years old and about to enter his 19th NBA season, Paul could find himself in a new position. But there is an obvious tradeoff, since the Warriors will almost certainly be considered a title-contender going into next season after winning four championships in the last decade—and Paul has never gotten his championship. He went to the NBA Finals with Phoenix in 2021, but the Suns blew a 2-0 series lead and lost to Milwaukee in six games.

"It'll be a conversation for us when camp starts. ... I think we'll figure all that stuff out," Paul said.

The histories of Paul and the Warriors have long been intertwined. Paul has scored more points against Golden State than he has any other team – 1,172, which is 14 more than he scored against the Los Angeles Lakers. He's played 18 playoff games against them, tied for his most against any opponent; he's also played against San Antonio 18 times in the postseason.

Among active players, including playoffs, nobody has played more games or has more assists against the Warriors than Paul does, and LeBron James and James Harden are the only active players with more points against Golden State.

And there's the history that Paul probably wishes he could forget, how two of his best shots at a championship were thwarted by the Warriors. In 2018, Paul and the Houston Rockets had a 3-2 series lead in the Western Conference finals before he got hurt, missed the final two games and Golden State prevailed—on the way to the NBA title. And in 2019, the Warriors beat Paul and the Rockets again, that time in the West semifinals before ultimately falling to Toronto in the NBA Finals.

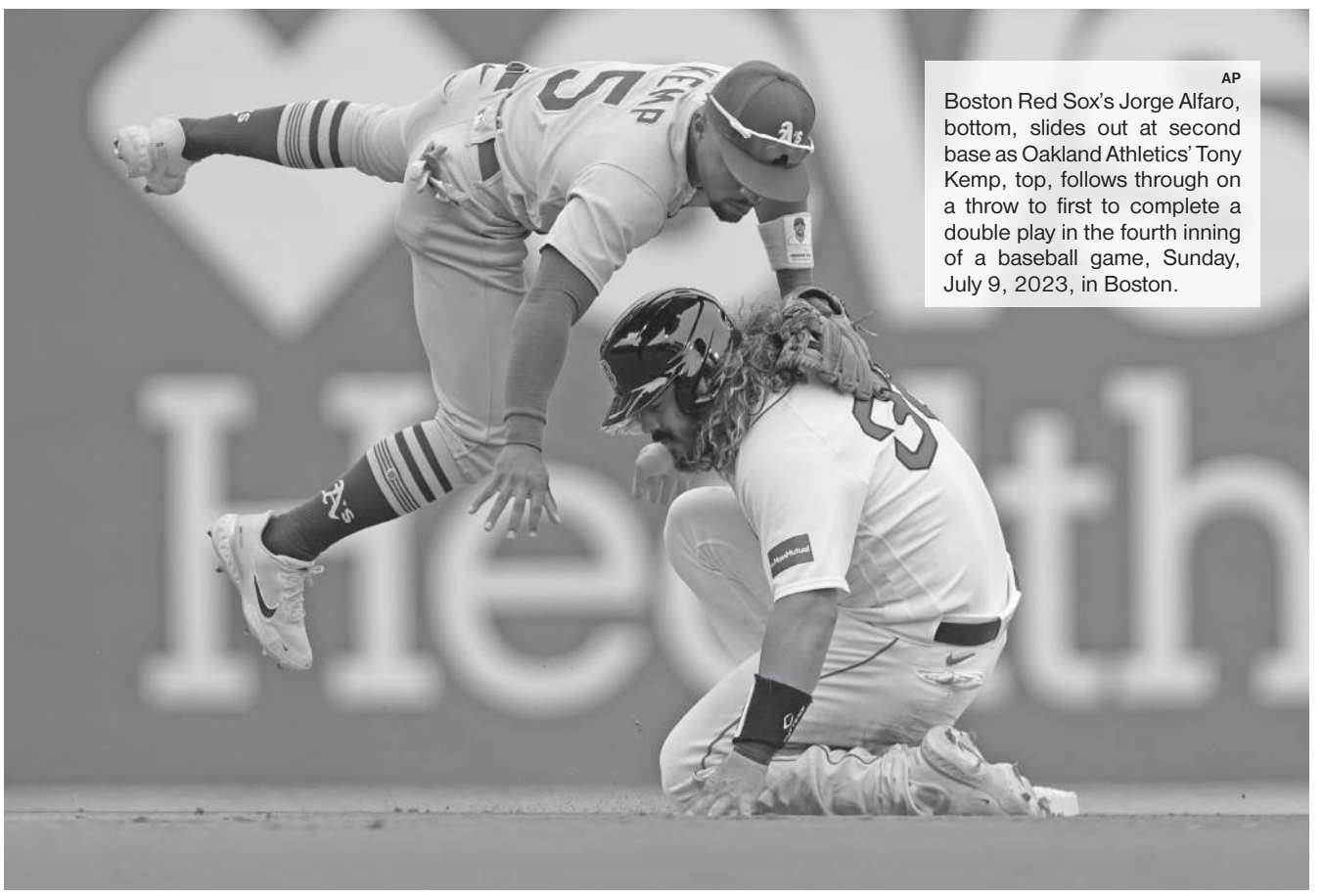
He said even his family can't believe he's with the Warriors now.

"It is what it is," Paul said. "Sports."

The Warriors will be seeking a fifth title in 10 years this coming season, and Paul has never won a ring. But when asked if that was his sole motivation for still playing, Paul insisted that he just still loves the game—and intends to keep playing for multiple years.

"I get a chance to play basketball every day and say, 'that's my way of life,'" Paul said. "So you're saying, 'why do I do it?' For the same reason I did it when I was 4 or 5 years old. You know what I mean? I wouldn't spend the time training and working out and hooping and being away from my family if I didn't love it. That hasn't changed."

Athletics start process of applying for move to Las Vegas



AP

Boston Red Sox's Jorge Alfaro, bottom, slides out at second base as Oakland Athletics' Tony Kemp, top, follows through on a throw to first to complete a double play in the fourth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, July 9, 2023, in Boston.

SEATTLE (AP)—The Oakland Athletics have started the process of applying to Major League Baseball to move to Las Vegas.

MLB last month established a relocation committee to evaluate the move, a group headed by Milwaukee Brewers chairman Mark Attanasio. Philadelphia Phillies CEO John Middleton and Kansas City Royals CEO John Sherman also are on the committee.

"They have begun to submit information related to their relocation application," MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "It's not complete at this point."

Nevada's Legislature approved providing $380 million in public financing for a proposed $1.5 billion, 30,000-seat ballpark with a retractable roof on the Tropicana hotel site of the Las Vegas Strip. The new venue would be close to Allegiant Stadium, where the NFL's Oakland Raiders moved to in 2020, and T-Mobile Arena, where the newly crowned Stanley Cup champion Vegas Golden Knights started play in 2017 as an expansion team.

A move would have to be approved by at least 75% of the 30 major league teams.

"My single biggest disappointment is because of the kind of political process in Oakland, we didn't find a solution to keep the A's in Oakland," Manfred said. "That's number one on the disappointment list."

Las Vegas would become the fourth home for a franchise that started in Philadelphia in 1901 (through 1954), moved to Kansas City for 13 seasons and arrived in Oakland in 1968.

The team's lease at the Coliseum expires after the 2024 season. It remains unclear where the team would play until a new ballpark opens in Las Vegas.

"Our relocation guidelines actually spell out pretty clearly what needs to be included in your application. One of the things that you have to include is what's going to happen during the interim period," Manfred said. "They have not made a submission on that topic yet."

At 25-67, the A's have the worst record in the major leagues and are on pace to finish 44-118, the worst record since the 2003 Detroit Tigers lost 119 games.

Oakland, with a major league-low $57.8 million opening-day payroll, is averaging a major league-low 10,089 attendance through 44 home games, up from 8,410 at a similar point last year. The A's have had 26 home games drawing under 10,000, including a low of 2,064 against Arizona on May 15.

Since the Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers for 1972, the only team to relocate has been the Montreal Expos, who became the Washington Nationals in 2005.

Manfred said MLB will consider expansion only after the A's and Tampa Bay Rays obtain new ballparks.

"I hope pretty shortly thereafter we would put together an expansion committee and start talking internally first about this issues associated with expansion," he said. "You're talking about diminishing the central revenue available to each of the 30 (teams), making it 32. You got to figure out the impact of that and then you've got to talk about what you would be looking for in terms of an expansion fee in order to offset that."

St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch in January announced a plan for a ballpark that would be built near Tropicana Field, the Rays' home since the team started play in 1998. The Rays have not committed to a site. Manfred said "I remain hopeful" of progress this year.

"They have stayed engaged with governmental entities throughout the Bay Area," Manfred said. "I think that the conversations have moved into—throughout the region—have moved into a more concrete period, a concrete zone in terms of the conversations that are going on."

As part of an expansion decision, Manfred envisions MLB examining the competition format.

"If you're going to go to 32, are you going to make format divisional changes? What should it look like?" Manfred said. "So there's some internal work that's going to take some time to get done. And then I think ultimately you go to the markets."

Speaking before Manfred, union head Tony Clark said players are willing to discuss reducing the schedule from 162 games.

"That conversation often stops with the conversation that we had during COVID, which is rolling back player salaries," Clark said. "So if there's a conversation to be had about creating extra flexibility in the schedule and what that might look like, whether that's 154 games, 158 games, 160 games, we can continue that to have that dialogue."

MLB open to consider increasing time on pitch clock in postseason

SEATTLE (AP)—Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred will consider increasing time on the pitch clock for the postseason but is reluctant to adjust an innovation the sport considers a great success.

In the first season of the clock, the average time of a nine-inning game is 2 hours, 38 minutes, on track to be the fastest since 1984. It is down from 3:04 last year and 3:09 in 2021, the last season before PitchCom was introduced.

"We're going to continue to talk to the players," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "I think you ought to play the postseason the way you play the regular season. There's exceptions. I'm open-minded on that topic."

The clock is set at 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners. There also are restrictions on defensive shifts and limits on pitcher disengagements.

"I don't believe there's any player, nor do I believe there are too many folks that want to have a new rule dramatically affect a game in a pennant chase or in the playoffs," union head Tony Clark told the BBWAA. "Players believe and we've been pretty consistent with this, that there are some adjustments that could be beneficial in the grand scheme of things so that we're not having a conversation about a new rule and instead focused in on the game being played."

MLB has a majority of the 11-member competition committee, which includes four players.

"We are comfortable with the way the clock and the violations, particularly late in the game in high-leverage situations we've been watching, have been managed," Manfred said,

There were 721 violations through July 4, of which 501 were by pitchers, 208 by batters and 12 by catchers. Philadelphia's Craig Kimbrel lead currently with 11 violations, followed by Toronto's Chris Bassitt with nine and San Diego's Joe Musgrove with seven.

"In a big spot," Kimbrel said Monday, "if it's 1-2, 0-2, I'm really thinking about my pitch and wanting to make a good pitch. I'm not going to rush just to get the pitch off. I'd rather take the ball."

Left-handed batters are hitting .248, up 13 points through the similar point last season. Righties are hitting .248, up one point, leaving the overall batting average up six points.

Runs per game have increased to 9.1 from 8.7 and steals per game to 1.4 from 1.0.

Average attendance of 28,404 is up 8.1% from a similar time last year and on track to be the highest since 2018, and MLB says the median age of ticket buyers is 43, down from 46 in 2022 and 49 in 2019. This is the first season since 2000 with a balanced schedule.

Manfred no intention of altering Pete Rose's lifetime ban

AP

In this Dec. 15, 2015, file photo, former baseball player and manager Pete Rose speaks at a news conference in Las Vegas.

SEATTLE (AP)—Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has no intention of altering Pete Rose's lifetime ban from baseball, and said the sport's commercial deals with gambling companies have no impact on the status of the career hits leader.

Rose agreed to a lifetime ban in 1989 after an investigation for Major League Baseball by lawyer John Dowd found Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team.

The Hall of Fame's board decided in 1991 that players on the permanently ineligible list also may not appear on the Hall ballot. Rose asked the Hall in 2016 to change the rule.

Rose applied for reinstatement in 1997 and met with Commissioner Bud Selig in 2002, but Selig never ruled on Rose's application. Manfred succeeded Selig in 2015 and rejected Rose's application.

"We've always approached the issue of gambling from the proposition that players and other people who are in a position to influence the outcome of the game are going to be subject to a different set of rules than everyone else in the world," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday.

"Pete Rose violated what is sort of rule one in baseball, and the consequences of that are clear in the rule, and we've continued to abide by our own rules," Manfred added. "It's just the rules are different for players. It's part of the responsibility that comes with the privilege of being a major league player."

Manfred minimized MLB's revenue from gaming companies.

"I think people believe we make more money off gambling than we actually do," he said.

Falcons fly past Natives, 8-4

LEIGH GASES
Falcons pitcher Zack Blas delivers a pitch during one of their games in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Falcons flew past the Natives, 8-4, in their makeup game of the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season on Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Natives had an early lead as they scored three in the first two innings from Tonai Cameron, Austin Benavente, and Juan Tenorio.

The Falcons scored just one in the first inning and were down by one run after the third inning after Henry Aguon scored for a 2-3 game.

The Falcons, who are third in the standings, didn't let down by one run to stop them from coming back.

They put up one more run from Aguon in the fifth inning to even up the score, 3-3, then they scored two more in the sixth to take the lead. The Falcons' J.D. Magofna scored after he got on base on a single after another single by A.J. Evangelista.

The Natives then could not produce and went scoreless in the next three innings.

The game swayed to the Falcons' advantage when they scored four more in the seventh inning and as the Natives put up just one more run, for a 8-4 game.

The Falcons' Angel Falig got on base from an error and scored on a passed ball, then a double by Ian Norita allowed him to score after Keoni Serrano's at-bat. Serrano then scored after an RBI single by Aguon.

Aguon ended up going 3-4 at bats with one walk, and had three RBIs. Meanwhile, three of his teammates reached base from being hit by pitches.

There are a few more makeup games in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season before the postseason which is slated to start at the end of July.

Meeting for Magalahi Eagles caging tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club and its sister organization, Saipan Maga'Haga Lady Eagles Club, are calling on all interested teams to attend an organizational meeting tomorrow, July 14, 6pm at the Gualo Rai basketball court.

Commissioner Sonny Ebuen said the league will have three divisions—youth (14-and-under), open (18-and-above), and masters (40-and-above) divisions.

He said so far 12 teams have shown interest in joining the open division and added that if the participating teams increase to 14-16, he will divide the teams into two brackets.

First 10 teams to pay the entrance fee will get guaranteed slots in the open divisions.

For the masters and youth divisions, Ebuen said, six and four teams, respectively, have made inquiries to join the league.

The tentative opening date for the Magalahi Eagles basketball league is July 30 and two games will be played at the Gualo Rai basketball court every day, except Sunday. The first game starts at 6pm and the second will commence at 7:30pm.

Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club president Dennis Cortez their organization is holding a basketball league to commemorate them adopting the sports venue.

He said they adopted the Gualo Rai basketball court so they can have a venue for their many basketball clinics.

To this end, Saipan Magalahi Eagles Club has painted the basketball court, fixed the benches, installed lights for night games, and built a committee shed for table officials.

Entrance fee for the league is $650 and Cortez said he is still looking for sponsors for the competition.

For more information about the inaugural Magalahi Eagles basketball league, call Sonny Ebuen (670) 285-0243 or Dennos Cortez at (670) 789-5588.

MARK RABAGO
Another basketball competition is on the horizon with the Magalahi Eagles basketball league expected to kick off at month's end.

LA HUNN

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and the competition has a lot of good players so it's been a wonderful experience for me. It's also exciting to make friends from other countries. I love to be here competing and making friends."

Other results yesterday saw Nasson Wessel beat American Samoa's Aaron Carruthers, 6-0, 6-0, in the boys 14. It's his second straight win after beating Federated States of Micronesia's Dontrick Daniel, 6-1, 4-6, 10-7, last Tuesday.

Girls 14's Anne Lee, who is the fourth seed, also won after stopping Guam's Rachel San Augustine, 6-1, 6-0

In the girls 16, Irin Chung beat Amelie Terlaje, 6-0, 6-0, to make up for her loss to No. 2 Mehetia Boosie of Tahiti, 0-6, 2-6, last Tuesday.

Boys 14's Siwoo Lee, meanwhile, lost to Papua New Guinea's John Louie Domalaon, 4-6, 3-6, and girls 14's Lina Tsukagoshi dropped a 2-6, 3-6 match to No. 1 seed Colita Hakena, also of PNG.

Boys 16's Simon Tang also lost to No. 1 Hiva Kelley of Tahiti, 6-0, 6-2, and teammate June Yu was turned back by Fiji's Devaansh Singh, 5-7, 4-6

Hoo Wang also was beaten by Tahiti's Tavero Chung, 3-6, 3-6, in the girls 16. Lastly, boys 16's Henry Seungwoo Choi succumbed to No. 3 Jonathan Jackson of Guam, 6-3, 6-4.

In other results on Day 2 last Tuesday, June Yu dropped a 6-2, 6-1 decision against second seed Fintan Molbaleh of Vanuatu; Hoo Wang lost a protracted match against Toaiva Busby of American Samoa, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3; Siwoo Lee lost to No. 3 Toanui Lee Tham of Tahiti, 6-4, 6-0; Simon Tang was narrowly beaten by Fiji's Ao Li, 2-6, 6-7; and Henry Seungwoo Cho was outdueled by Vanuatu's Alessandro Traverso, 4-6, 6-4, 3-6.

In team competition, American Samoa's girls 12 team swept the CNMI, 3-0.

Team CNMI, which plays as part of the North Pacific Team in the POJC, is coached by CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jeff Race and Colin Ramsey, the current No. 1 singles player in the Commonwealth.

SSS

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teams she said, "if they want to continue playing sports, we would love to see them on the field or on the basketball court, but we just want them to not stay at home and just play video games. We want them to make friends and be active during the summer."

As for Janelle Pangilinan, who coaches badminton, she said some children from previous camps went on to become members of the national team. For this year's camp, she said about two are serious in the sport and have potential.

On the camp itself so far, Pangilinan said the kids love it as they come every day and every week. For the skills she teaches, she said "I teach them basic badminton and find ways to make it fun. I just want them to see how fun it is to play badminton."

Leland Deleon Guerrero, one of the 22 coaches for soccer, said that the camp so far has been running smoothly. On the participants, he said with a chuckle that they're good even though they could be a headache sometimes.

He, along with the other coaches, teaches the children the fundamentals of how to play soccer and how they can improve as a player.

Manuel Jones Villagomez, a 12-year-old who is participating in all of the sports in the camp, said that he didn't have the chance to join sports in school so he decided to join when he heard about the camp. His favorite sport that he joined is basketball, he's made lots of friends so far, and that the camp is fun.

Camp coordinator Christy Villaflor said that the purpose of this camp since its inception has always been to engage the youth in a physical and healthy lifestyle. This year has seen the most participants since the COVID-19 pandemic and children are excited to be with their friends and participate in sports outside of school.

Villaflor thanked the parents of participants, the children in the camp, Child Care & Development Fund, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Saipan Soccer School, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for their support of the camp.

AIMELIIK

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-run deficit.

The Bat Boys' offense were not done putting up runs as scored two more in the fifth and a pinch-hit home run by Roy Norita made it a 13-6 game.

No Choice could not get past zero runs through the rest of the game as Bat Boys' pitcher and BASA vice president, McQueen Masaharu shutdown their lineup in order, 1-2-3.

Blue Jays 8, Ready Mix 2

The Blue Jays flew out of the batters' box in a hurry as lead off batter James Salalila hit a single, who then scored on a double by Kier Agda. Agda then rounded the bases after a two-RBI home run by E.J. Cabrera.

Two more runs scored as Kyle Foreman hit a home run that brought home Salalila in the third inning for a 5-0 lead.

Ready Mix wasn't read for what was coming as they put up zeroes in four innings and only scored two in the fifth inning. They couldn't find holes in the Blue Jays' defense and pitching as they were subsequently shut down in the last two innings.

The Blue Jays' first three batters were busy in this game as Salalila, Forman, and Agda got on base again and were driven home by singles from the middle and end of the lineup.

Just 4 Fun 13, TuTuramZ 1

Just 4 Fun had way too much fun as they defeated TuTuramZ, 13-1, in a mercy-ruled game.

The only run by TuTuramZ came in the first inning after Jaime Reyes scored. The rest of the game, they couldn't score or even get on base save for one batter.

Meanwhile, Just 4 Fun scored four in the first, three in the second, two in the third, and four in the fourth inning. It was cut short in the fifth when TuTuramZ could not produce any more runs.

Kebruka 12, Seaweed Vibes 1

Kebruka destroyed the good vibes of Seaweed Vibes after they beat them, 12-1, in another mercy-ruled game.

It was a quiet game for Seaweed Vibes as they scored just one in the first inning, while Kebruka put up two. Kebruka ended up with four more in the third and then five in the fourth inning.

Svitolina has Ukraine war, her baby in mind as she beats Swiatek.

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Sports

Falcons fly past Natives, 8-4.

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La Hunn stays undefeated in Fiji

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's La Hunn Lam, center, poses with the rest of the CNMI players seeing action in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's La Hunn Lam in action in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Three matches and three wins so far for the CNMI's La Hunn Lam of the North Pacific Team in the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

Seeing action in the boys 14 division, Lam won his third straight match yesterday after topping Tahiti's Matehau Sacault, 6-1, 6-1

Last Tuesday, he beat Solomon Islands' John Kennedy Taufunu, 6-2, 6-1, for win No. 2 and on Monday he debuted with a 6-0, 6-0 victory over Fiji's Frank Sun.

Lam said he's fortunate to be on a roll in his second go-around in the POJC.

"It feels awesome to be here participating in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championship in Fiji and keep winning," he said.

So far, Lam has also been enjoying his experience outside the tennis court.

"Fiji is a friendly place

See LA HUNN on Page 19

SSS Summer Camp draws over 200 participants daily

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp is in full swing at the TSL Sports Complex and draws over 200 eager and energetic participants daily.

Since the inception of the camp about five years ago, this year has drawn the most participants in its badminton, soccer, basketball, and volleyball summer sports camp.

This year's summer camp started on June 12 and will last until Aug. 12 for two months of sports, teambuilding, and fun for children that range from 4 to 13 years old.

The camp is from 7:30am to 12pm, Monday-Friday, with afternoon sessions until 3pm due to the large number of participants.

Soccer has the most participants with 160, while basketball and volleyball average between 80, and badminton averages around 30 daily.

Irish Pagarao, who coaches basketball and volleyball, said that everyday is busy. "There's much more children than the camps before, so it's hard controlling them when we're doing drills but overall, we're doing fine, and we're happy."

When asked whether they scout players to be in clubs or

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LEIGH GASES
Irish Pagarao, far right, speaks to the participants of the 2023 Saipan Soccer School Summer Camp basketball portion during their camp yesterday morning at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

Aimeliik Bat Boys pummel No Choice, 13-6

BY LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Aimeliik Bat Boys' stacked lineup pummeled No Choice, 13-6, in the start of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

No Choice had no choice but to hand over the win to the Bat Boys when the Boys put up seven runs in the fourth inning after their three-run first inning. At this point, No Choice had already scored all six of their runs after being shut down in two innings and were in a four

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LEIGH GASES
Aimeliik Bat Boys' second baseman Nokki Saralu crouches for the ball as a No Choice batter tries to outrun it during their game in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.